

STARS AND STRIPES®

Hanks' terminal case of making Spielberg films

Page 20

Tom Hanks stars in "The Terminal"



U.S. strikes reputed safe house of al-Zarqawi followers

Page 3



Magic, Rockets working on blockbuster trade

Back page

Orlando's Tracy McGrady

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2004

Iraqi militants behead South Korean worker

U.S. military confirms death, finds body west of Baghdad Page 3



DOD food specialists give lawmakers on Capitol Hill a taste of the latest combat meal options for troops in the field

Page 8



Wesley Long, left, a student employee in the Defense Department's Combat Feeding Directorate, and Mike Acheson, a food technologist for the directorate, dish up samples last week on Capitol Hill in Washington.

PHOTO BY LISA BURGESS
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTIKOE
Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Super Bowl streaker: The man who frolicked near naked on the field during the Super Bowl was fined \$1,000 Tuesday but won't have to spend any time in jail.

Mark Roberts, 39, was fined by the same six-woman jury that found him guilty in Houston on Monday of misdemeanor trespassing. That carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail and up to a \$2,000 fine. Jurors deliberated for about an hour before deciding on the sentence, courts coordinator Rachel Ferrel said.

"The whole reason I did it was to entertain people, America," Roberts said Monday. "If making people laugh is a criminal offense, I should be sentenced to prison for life."

Case against Rudolph: A federal judge approved a plan Tuesday to try a serial bombing suspect Eric Rudolph in Birmingham, Ala., but pick jurors from throughout north Alabama, instead of just the Birmingham area. U.S. District Judge Lynwood Smith approved the joint proposal that had been agreed to by defense attorneys and federal prosecutors.

The decision brought a quick end to a hearing on a defense motion to move Rudolph's trial out of Birmingham. Wearing a bullet-proof vest, Rudolph had arrived in court amid tight security for what was expected to be two days of arguments.

Attorneys for Rudolph had asked Smith to move the trial out of north Alabama partly because of years of publicity about the 1998 bombing of a Birmingham abortion clinic and Rudolph's subsequent disappearance into North Carolina mountains.

Rudolph's trial is set for Aug. 2.

Same-sex marriage: Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, whose state is the only one to recognize gay marriages, in Washington on Tuesday urged passage of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex unions, even as the conservative who wrote a federal law denying recognition to such marriages said that law was sufficient.

"It is not possible for the issue to remain solely a Massachusetts issue, it must now be confronted on a national basis," Romney said.

But in a preview of what is certain to be a politically charged debate, former Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., told a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that the Constitution shouldn't be used as a vehicle for banning homosexual marriage. His remarks suggested that some of the strongest opposition to the proposed amendment may come from conservatives who abhor gay unions.

"We meddle with the Constitution to our own peril," Barr said.

D.C. sniper attacks: A judge on Tuesday in Fairfax, Va., set a tentative date of Oct. 4 for convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad's second trial, turning aside defense objections that it was too early to take such action.

Muhammad is on death row after being convicted last year in one of the 10 killings in the shooting spree that terrorized residents in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., in October 2002.



World War II remembrances: Former sailor and World War II veteran Alexander Aldoshkin, 77, holds a candle Tuesday while standing near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier next to the Kremlin wall in Moscow to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the Nazi invasion of the former Soviet Union. War memories remain strong in Russia, where losses reached 27 million people, touching almost every family.

He made his first appearance in Fairfax County Circuit Court, where he is charged in another of the deaths, the Oct. 14, 2002, slaying of FBI analyst Linda Franklin.

Muhammad's lawyers, Peter Greenspun and Jonathan Shapiro, argued that it was improper to move forward because Muhammad was not notified of the charges in a timely manner. Muhammad was indicted in Franklin's death in November 2002 but was not formally notified of the charges until last month.

World

North Korea nukes: The United States, North Korea and four other nations agreed Tuesday to discuss a freezing of the North's nuclear program and inspections that would lead to its eventual dismantlement, a South Korean official said.

Some of the governments were working on plans to offer the North aid in exchange for suspending its clandestine efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

The agreement was reached in two days of negotiations on an agenda for six-nation talks that start Wednesday in Beijing.

Two earlier rounds of talks among the two Koreas, China, Russia, Japan and the United States ended with little progress.

Polio outbreak: Africa is on the brink of the biggest polio epidemic in years, with the

crippling disease hitting Nigeria hard and re-emerging in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region, the World Health Organization said Tuesday in Geneva.

The number of polio cases globally has reached 333 so far this year, almost double the number for the same period last year. Total cases last year reached 783.

In Nigeria, where Muslim leaders have refused to participate in immunization programs, 257 cases have been reported this year.

Polio is a water-borne disease that usually infects young children, attacking the nervous system and causing paralysis, muscular atrophy, deformation and sometimes death.

Philippine peace talks: Communist rebels and Philippines government negotiators opened a new round of peace talks in Oslo, Norway, on Tuesday with hopes of ending their 35-year armed conflict, but a dispute over the rebels being listed as a terrorist group could stall the process.

The third round of talks in the Norwegian capital this year focuses on an agreement for social and economic reforms, confidence building measures and a report from a new human rights monitoring committee.

The rebels, organized in the National Democratic Front umbrella group, have repeatedly said that they will not sign a lasting cease-fire until the root causes of the conflict, such as economic and social injustices, are addressed.

Madrid bombings: The parliamentary committee investigating the Madrid, Spain, train bombings released on Tuesday a list of 83 witnesses who might be called to testify. All seven groups on the panel named three officials who might be summoned to answer questions: former Interior Minister Angel Acebes, his successor Jose Antonio Alonso and the former head of the National Intelligence Center, Jorge Decalzar.

Former Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar was requested to appear by smaller parties but not by the ruling Socialists nor by Aznar's Popular Party.

Also on the list are Morocco's Interior Minister Mustafa Sahel and German Interior Minister Otto Schily.

The commission is to decide on Wednesday who will be called to appear.

Hearings, including the examination of police documents related to the investigation, were expected to begin almost immediately and perhaps conclude by the end of next month.

Troubles at Alitalia: The Italian government agreed Tuesday to guarantee a bridge loan in a bid to stave off bankruptcy at state-controlled airline Alitalia.

Alitalia shares had been suspended earlier Tuesday pending the announcement, which was made at the end of a Cabinet meeting in Premier Silvio Berlusconi's office in Rome.

The bridge loan is the only type of aid that might have been allowed under European Union rules. EU officials said that Alitalia could be eligible to receive rescue aid in the form of a bridge loan repayable within a maximum of 12 months.

Stories and photos from wire services

Messages of Support

I support the selfless acts you great soldiers execute for me, my family, and our country. You are part of a vital task making America a safer place. There is plenty of information supporting this statement though some people would like to ignore it mainly

because of partisan politics. They couldn't have the current administration looking good in anything it did. You soldiers sometimes sadly get caught in the middle of this politics. You just remember you are on the good side and serving righteousness. No one around my

company will be spitting on soldiers and we all hope to see you home soon. Burl B. from Allen, Texas

Thank you all. Bless all you men and women for your service to us. Arnie and Cheryl S.

Militant target struck in Fallujah

U.S. launches strike on reputed al-Zarqawi safe house; 3 killed

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The United States launched an airstrike Tuesday in Fallujah on a safe house used by followers of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi — the second strike against the terrorist network in three days, the U.S. military said.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the U.S.-led coalition's deputy chief of operations, said the strike involved precision weapons to "target and destroy" the safe house and was based on "multiple confirmations of actionable intelligence."

"Wherever and whenever we find elements of the Zarqawi network, we will attack them," he said.

Large explosions rocked the restive Sunni Muslim city west of Baghdad. Ambulances raced to the area after the 10:30 p.m. blasts.

Wounded and dead were being evacuated, said Iraqi Police Col. Mekky Zeidan.

U.S. officials offered no casualty figures, but Al-Jazeera television reported that three people were killed and six were wounded.

An attack in the same area Saturday

levelled a building U.S. officials said was a suspected al-Zarqawi safe house. Fallujah officials claimed the house was owned by an Iraqi family and that no foreign terrorists were there.

Al-Zarqawi, who is thought to have ties to al-Qaida, has been blamed for a string of car bombs across Iraq, including a blast last week that killed 35 people and wounded 145 at an Iraqi military recruiting center in Baghdad.

His Monotheism and Jihad movement carried through Tuesday on its threat to behead South Korean hostage Kim Sun-il after South Korea refused to withdraw its troops from Iraq.

Poll: Support slips for Bush

WASHINGTON — Amid rising disenchantment with the war in Iraq, President Bush has lost ground on the issue that is central to his public support: fighting terrorism.

An ABC News-Washington Post poll released Monday found that approval of Bush's handling of terrorism has dropped to 50 percent, with 48 percent disapproving. As recently as April, more than six in 10 approved of his handling of terrorism.

Kerry now runs even with Bush in trust to handle this issue. Bush led Kerry by 13 points on this issue a month ago in this poll, and by 21 points the month before.

More than half, 52 percent, said the war in Iraq was not worth fighting — the first time a majority in this poll has said so.

Kerry held a slight lead in the poll with the support of 48 percent of registered voters, while Bush had 44 percent and independent Ralph Nader held 4 percent. An NPR poll out Monday showed Bush and Kerry running even.

The ABC-Post poll of 1,201 adults was taken June 17-20 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

From The Associated Press

Iraqi militants behead South Korean hostage

U.S. military finds body west of capital

By TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi militant group beheaded its South Korean hostage, officials said Tuesday, just hours after a go-between said the execution had been delayed and there were negotiations for the man's release.

The South Korean foreign ministry issued a statement confirming that Kim Sun-il had been killed but did not say he was beheaded.

However, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, coalition deputy operations chief, said the body of an Asian male was found west of Baghdad on Tuesday evening.

"It appears that the body had been thrown from a vehicle," Kimmitt said in a statement. "The man had been beheaded, and the head was recovered with the body."

Kim's body was found by the U.S. military, Kim's family said. Kim, 33, was kidnapped in Baghdad and Fallujah, 22 miles west of the capital, at 5:20 p.m. Iraq time, said South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Shin Bong-ki.

After news of Kim's death broke, South Korean television showed Kim's distraught family members weeping and rocking back and forth with grief at their home in the southeastern port city of Pusan.

"I don't want to die, I don't want to die," Kim pleaded in a first video released by his captors Sunday as he begged his government to end its involvement in Iraq.

The South Korean Embassy in Baghdad confirmed that the body was Kim's by studying a picture of the remains it received by e-mail, Shin said.

"It breaks our heart that we have to announce this unfortunate news," Shin said. Kim, 33, worked for Gana General Trading Co., a South Korean company supplying the U.S. military in Iraq. He was abducted last week, according to the South Korean government.

The videotape of Kim, apparently made shortly before his death, showed him kneeling, blindfolded and wearing an orange jumpsuit similar to those issued to prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Five hooded men stood behind Kim, one reading a statement and gesturing with his right hand. Another captor had a big knife



Kim Jong-kyu, right, and Shin Young-ja, parents of Kim Sun-il who was kidnapped in Iraq, react after hearing that their son had been killed, at their home in Pusan, South Korea, early Wednesday. Kim was killed despite government efforts to release him.

slipped in his belt.

One of the masked men said the message was intended for the Korean people. "This is what your hands have committed. Your army has not come here for the sake of Iraqis, but for cursed America."

The video as broadcast did not show Kim being executed.

Al-Jazeera said the video claimed the execution was carried out by the al-Qaida-linked group Monotheism and Jihad.

President Bush condemned the beheading of a South Korean hostage as "barbaric" Tuesday and said he remained confident that South Korea would go ahead with plans to send thousands of troops to Iraq.

"The free world cannot be intimidated by the brutal actions of these barbaric people," the president said.

The grisly killing was reminiscent of the decapitation of American businessman Nicholas Berg, who was beheaded last month on a videotape posted on an Al-Qaida-linked Web site by the same group, which claimed responsibility for Kim's death.

In Saudi Arabia, American helicopter technician Paul M. Johnson Jr., 49, was kidnapped by al-Qaida militants who followed through on a threat to kill him if the kingdom did not release its al-Qaida prisoners. An al-Qaida group claiming responsibility posted an Internet message that showed

photographs of Johnson's severed head.

Al-Jazeera did not say when Kim was killed.

Kim's kidnappers had initially threatened to kill him at sundown Monday unless South Korea canceled a troop deployment to Iraq. The Seoul government rejected the demand, standing firm with plans to dispatch 3,000 soldiers starting in August.

Kim Chun-ho, president of Gana General Trading, the company that employed the victim, were traveling to the site to collect the remains, Shin said.

South Korea convened its National Security Council at 2 a.m. to discuss the government's reaction, Shin said. Later the government reaffirmed it would send troops to Iraq as planned.

Also Tuesday, gunmen opened fire on a U.S. military convoy north of the capital, killing two American soldiers and wounding a third, the military said.

U.S. officials, meanwhile, said they would hand legal custody of Saddam Hussein and an undetermined number of former regime figures to the interim government as soon as Iraq courts issue warrants for their arrest and request the transfer.

However, the United States will retain physical custody of Saddam and the prisoners, while giving Iraqi prosecutors and defense lawyers access to them, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, 837 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 617 died as a result of hostile action and 220 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths: Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 699 U.S. troops have died — 508 as a result of hostile action and 191 of nonhostile causes, according to the military as of Monday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Four U.S. soldiers were killed Monday in an attack in Ramadi.

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Monday and seven others were wounded in a mortar attack in Baghdad.

■ A U.S. soldier died Friday from wounds received during an attack near Buzhiz.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Thai Vae, 22, Willows, Calif., died Friday in a mortar attack in Baghdad, assigned to the 127th Military Police Company, 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, V Corps, Hanau, Germany.

■ Army Pfc. Jason N. Lynch, 21, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, died Friday in an attack in Buzhiz, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, Bamberg, Germany.

■ Marine Staff Sgt. Marvin Best, 33, Prosser, Wash.; died Sunday of wounds suffered in an attack in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

■ Marine Pfc. Sean Horn, 19, Orange, Calif., died Saturday in a nonhostile incident at Camp Taqaddum; assigned to Combat Service Support Group 11, 1st Force Service Support Group, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Interrogation tactics file to be released

White House wants to end rumors Bush authorized torture of prisoners

BY SCOTT LINDLAU
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House has decided to release a thick file of papers documenting its internal deliberations on methods for interrogating prisoners in facilities from Abu Ghraib in Iraq to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The two-inch stack of papers was to be released late Tuesday. It is intended to counter what White House aides fear is a growing perception that the administration authorized torture as an interrogation technique.

"We believe it's important for the American people to have an accurate picture of the policies that we put in place and an accurate picture of the techniques that were approved by the Pentagon. It's important to set the record straight," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

President Bush "has never and has no in-

tention of ever" authorizing torture in questioning prisoners, McClellan said.

"The president recognizes that his most important responsibility to the American people is their safety and security," McClellan said. "We are a nation that is at war but we are also a nation of laws and the president expects our government to comply with laws and our treaty obligations."

White House legal counsel Alberto Gonzales intended to brief reporters on the documents.

The documents are meant to show "the White House's deliberative process" in arriving at rules for complying with the Geneva Convention and rules on interrogation techniques, one senior official said, requesting anonymity on grounds that Gonzales was to talk on the record later Tuesday.

The administration decided to release the papers to fight the "constant drip on this issue" — a continuous stream of leaks and accusations that the administration

had stepped outside the bounds of international law, the official said. "Everyone reached the conclusion that the administration had authorized torture," he said.

The official, saying the United States is facing a new kind of war with an enemy that does not respect or operate under the rules of the Geneva Convention, pointed to the kidnapping and beheading of American civilian engineer Paul M. Johnson Jr. in Saudi Arabia last week. The papers being released Tuesday show that the White House and other agencies are wrestling with "how best to address that foe," one official said.

The documents cover a period of several months and were generated by several agencies, including the Department of Justice.

One set of papers alone spans 50 pages.

Among the papers are some that have already been seen by the public, including previously confidential memos in which

Justice Department lawyers concluded that Taliban and al-Qaida fighters are not protected by the Geneva Conventions governing the treatment of prisoners of war because they do not satisfy four main conditions of the treaty itself.

Democrats criticized those memos as laying the legal foundation for Iraqi prisoner abuses, but administration officials said they were aimed mainly at showing that international treaties banning torture do not apply to al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners.

At a June 10 news conference, President Bush sidestepped questions about whether he had seen or authorized the Justice Department papers.

"The authorization I issued was that anything we did would conform to U.S. law and would be consistent with international treaty obligations. That's the message I gave our people," Bush said in Savannah, Ga. "I can't remember if I've seen the memo or not, but I gave those instructions."



Iraqi men rest in the shade of a wall painted with graffiti concerning the Abu Ghraib prison mistreatment scandal in the Sadr City district of Baghdad on Tuesday.

Judge refuses new Article 32 for soldier in prison abuse case

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A military court judge refused Tuesday to order a new Article 32 investigation into allegations that Staff Sgt. Ivan L. "Chip" Frederick II abused inmates at Abu Ghraib prison.

Ordering a new Article 32 investigation, the military equivalent of a grand jury probe, would have been tantamount to dropping the charges.

The judge, Col. James Pohl, rejected the motion during a pretrial hearing reset for Tuesday.

Frederick, of Buckingham, Va., is one of seven soldiers accused in the scandal. He and two others appeared in court Monday for hearings but the proceeding against Frederick was reset for next month after his civilian lawyer failed to appear.

Later, the military said Frederick decided to ask that the hearing be held Tuesday, as was his right.

During the Tuesday session, Frederick won the right for his lawyers to question top U.S. generals in connection with the case.

Also on Tuesday, the U.S. Army scheduled an Article 32 hearing for Spc. Sabrina Harman in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal case, the U.S. command said.

The session will determine if the 26-year-old will face court-martial.

The session will be held Thursday, a military spokeswoman, Lt. Beatriz Yarrish, said.

Harman, of Lorton, Va., is a member of the 372nd Military Police Company.

Records indicate Gitmo suicide attempts increased under Miller

BY MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three months after a get-tough U.S. general took command of the Guantanamo Bay prison for terror suspects, prisoners began a flurry of suicide attempts, according to military records.

Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller took over as commander at Guantanamo in November 2002 after interrogators criticized his predecessor for being too solicitous for the detainees' welfare.

Between January and March 2003, 14 prisoners at Guantanamo tried to kill themselves, according to Pentagon figures. That's more than 40 percent of the 34 suicide attempts by 21 inmates since the prison was opened in January 2002.

Miller is now in charge of all military-run U.S. prisons in Iraq, a job he took after news broke of beatings and sexual humiliations last fall at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad.

Miller had visited Abu Ghraib in August and September and recommended interrogation techniques that military lawyers said had to be modified to com-

ply with the Geneva Conventions on treating prisoners of war.

Human rights groups say the suicide attempts at Guantanamo Bay may be evidence that conditions there amounted to torture.

The Bush administration calls the men "enemy combatants," similar to traditional prisoners of war but not subject to the guarantees of the Geneva Conventions against torture and other abuses. The administration contends their treatment nevertheless is humane.

"Our concern is that the totality of the conditions at Guantanamo — starting with the prolonged detention without trial, combined with the frequent interrogation that may have included problematic methods — may have contributed to an atmosphere that pushed people to attempt suicide," said Alistair Hodgson of the human rights group Amnesty International.

Miller and other military officials deny that. "All detainees are treated humanely," Guantanamo military spokesman Maj. David S. Kolark said in a written response to questions from The Associated Press.

He said all prisoners are treated "in accordance with the principles" of the Geneva Conventions, "to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity."

No Iraqi prisoners have killed themselves since the U.S. invasion, said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a spokesman for Miller in Baghdad.



Miller

Wife pleads guilty to planning for fellow Marine to kill her husband

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — A Marine's wife pleaded guilty Monday to conspiring to have him killed by a fellow Marine while he was stationed in Kuwait.

Wendy Glass, 34, of Yuma, Ariz., admitted in federal court to having an affair with the other Marine, and said they conspired to kill her husband, James Glass.

James Glass and Larry Framness were deployed from Marine

Corps Air Station Yuma in early 2003 and stationed at Camp Snake Pit at the Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait.

Framness tried to kill Glass with a grenade after luring him to a guard shack, prosecutors said.

In a phone conversation around April, Wendy Glass allegedly told Framness that she didn't want to know details of the killing and also didn't want her husband to suffer.

Glass was injured but survived.

He has recovered and is back in Yuma with his unit, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371.

Framness pleaded guilty in February in military court to charges that included attempted murder and adultery. He is serving a life sentence.

Because Wendy Glass cooperated in the prosecution of Framness, her prosecutors have recommended a sentence of a little more than eight years. Sentencing was scheduled for Sept. 13.

MPs help patch holes in Baghdad security

Germany-based unit prepares Iraqis to take over operations

By RICK SCAVETTA
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — With only a sheet of cardboard for shade, Sgt. James Hawthorne sits atop a sun-scorched roof of an Iraqi police station.

Hawthorne and his squad, soldiers from the 272nd Military Police Company, pull security to deter enemy insurgents from launching strikes against lightly armed Iraqi cops.

"They don't attack when we're here," said Hawthorne, 21, of Baton Rouge, La. "They can come on, but we have a lot of firepower. We'll hold them."

But when night falls and the U.S. soldiers return to Camp Cervo, the shooting starts, said Lua Shukur, an Iraqi officer assigned to station. Rockets and bullets come from nearly every direction pummeling the station, which is a few blocks from the Tigris River.

"These [attacks] are from people who love Saddam, people who come from Fallujah and have relatives here," Shukur said. "Many bad people, with RPGs and AKs, they shoot us at night then run away."

On Sunday, a local man with ties to the insurgents brought a warning. If troops did not withdraw

draw from the station, insurgents threatened to kill every Iraqi officer assigned to it.

"We received the same threat four days ago, but nothing happened," said Sgt. Paul Meyer, 30, of Old Orchard Beach, Maine. "While we're here, we'll protect the station."

The surrounding neighborhood has its share of criminals, to include the "20th Street gang," thugs from a nearby avenue, soldiers said. Except these adversaries often attack with a heavy arsenal.

Down below Hawthorne, Iraqi officers climb aboard a police-marked pickup truck riddled with AK-47 bullets. Surrounding buildings are scarred with bullet holes and blackened streaks from explosions. Suspicious-looking men watch the station from a small café nearby.

The station is a bastioned fortress in the often-volatile Adhamiya neighborhood. Concrete barriers topped with razor wire block the street out front. Soldiers man sandbagged bunkers in the compound, training their machine guns on windows and rooftops. Under the hot sun, their watch can be long and dull, soldiers said.



PHOTOS BY RICK SCAVETTA/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Clinton Rope, 20, of Clarinda, Iowa, looks over a Baghdad neighborhood Sunday from atop an Iraqi police station. U.S. military police maintain security at the police station during daylight hours. However, after dark, the troops leave and the station often comes under attack.

Staring out into the endless rows of tan-colored buildings, the guys chat to stay alert, they said.

"We talk about muscle cars, women and ... women," Sgt. Stephen Parrott said. "And women."

Sometimes that talk about friends "back home," wondering what they're doing now as the soldiers pull their tour in Iraq.

"You've got to be a talker up here," said Pfc. Clinton Rope, 20, of Clarinda, Iowa. "That's what passes the time."

Back in Heidelberg, Germany, the troops are assigned to the 529th Military Police Company, the honor guard for U.S. Army Europe commander Gen. B.B. Bell. When their headquarters, the Mannheim, Germany-based 95th Military Police Battalion, was deployed to Iraq four months ago, the platoon was attached to the 272nd MPB.

They arrived in Baghdad on April 12, just after a series of deadly clashes with radicals in Sadr City.

Insurgents frequently target Iraqi security structures, to include the fledgling police departments. On June 3, Capt. Jason Marquiss' company was called into Sadr City to support Company C, 759th Military Police Com-

pany, which was taking fire at the Al-Karamah station. For about four days, MPs engaged the enemy, said Marquiss, the company commander.

Now the company is doing its best to train and equip its Iraqi counterparts with hopes that Iraqi police take over security for their own people.

Three of the company's four platoons work at Iraqi police stations, said Marquiss. One platoon trains recruits at the Baghdad police academy.

Keeping a presence at the Iraqi police stations is more than just guard duty. Marquiss' soldiers mentor the Iraqis to work professionally, he said. They cover basic police functions; apprehending suspects, conducting investigations and preparing cases for the court.

Helping build the Iraqi force is not without challenges.

Supplies for the Iraqi police are slow in coming. Finding interpreters also takes time. But many police now have uniforms, pistols and numbered badges. Some of their trucks are new Nissan pickups. Bulletproof vests slowly are being fielded.

Looking like police and having equipment brought up the Iraqis' morale, Marquiss said.

In just a couple of months, Marquiss has witnessed a marked improvement, he said.

"They are going out and doing things on their own now," Marquiss said.

The military recently tripled the size of the company's beat. They went from 11 sites near the city center to 31 stations in north and east Baghdad. With a limited number of MPs for such a large area, Marquiss is now seeing where his company can best focus its efforts, he said.

Marquiss wants his troops to learn their beat more by day before he assigns them to night operations, he said.

"We don't want to rush to failure," Marquiss said.

And their job is not to hunt down the insurgents. They leave that to the infantry patrols, which recently picked up a local gang leader, Marquiss said.

Back on the rooftop, soldiers may see an occasional head popping through a window. Sweat drips down their faces, catching dust and grime blown by the wind. They think about their lives, their families, their mission.

"It's strange," Hawthorne said, atop his perch. "I never thought I'd be here."

E-mail Rick Scavetta at: scavetta@mail.starsandstripes.osd.mil



An Iraqi policeman washes a patrol truck that insurgents riddled with AK-47 rounds.

Senate refuses to overturn ban on filming return of war dead

By PAULINE JELINEK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate refused on Monday to change a Pentagon policy banning media coverage of America's war dead as their remains arrive in flag-draped caskets.

"It's an outrage," said Sen. Frank Lautenberg, who had sponsored legislation to restore coverage of homecoming ceremonies at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

The New Jersey Democrat said

the Pentagon directive that requires strict censorship, "issued just as the Iraq war began, ... prevents the American people from seeing the truth about what's happening."

The 54-39 Senate negative vote came as the American death toll in Iraq reached 837 Monday.

The vote defeated an amendment to the authorization bill for the Defense Department that would have required the Pentagon to produce a protocol in 60 days to regulate media coverage of the returning dead.

Banning press and public access to the arrival of casualties in Dover was started in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, during the term of President Bush's father. The policy continued through President Clinton's eight years in office, although it was not strictly enforced and there was no conflict on the scale of the either the Persian Gulf War or the war in Iraq during Clinton's tenure.

"During the Afghan war in during this administration, flag-draped coffins were filmed [at Dover], and during the Kosovo conflict

President Clinton was on the tarmac to receive the dead," Lautenberg said.

Citing privacy questions on the eve of the war with Iraq a year ago, the Pentagon reiterated the ban and began enforcing it at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Photos often had been allowed at Ramstein before the current Bush administration.

Sen. John Warner, Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, argued the ban should continue "to preserve the most important priority, and

that's the privacy of the families, ... and not open up this matter to greater scrutiny by the press."

The debate over whether Americans should see coffins of the war dead flared in April after The Seattle Times published a front-page photograph of coffins in a cargo plane in Kuwait and a First Amendment activist posted on his Web site dozens of similar images from Dover, home to the nation's largest military mortuary.

A poll at that time found more than six in 10 Americans thought the homecomings should be covered.

Defending safe passage

Marines on the lookout for bombs, bad guys along Iraq's Route 1

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

THE 20-mile stretch of highway between Abu Ghraib and Fallujah is a prime target for people who want to kill U.S. troops and disrupt convoys by planting bombs and firing rockets.

Every day and night, the Marines of Company D, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, go out looking for bombs and bad guys.

It's their job to make Route 1 safe for trucks delivering supplies to U.S. bases.

The bad guys are invited to show their faces, but they rarely do.

"We can tear some stuff up," said Cpl. Jermaine Whitley, 21, of Jacksonville, Fla. "We look forward to that kind of stuff. It makes the day go faster and gives us something to talk about when we get back to base."

They are certainly capable. The Marines patrol in vehicles the Iraqis nicknamed "destroyers" during the first part of the war as U.S. forces moved north from Kuwait to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

The Light Armored Vehicles, or LAV-25s, feature 25 mm Bushmaster chain-fed guns that fire devastating one-inch thick projectiles. Each vehicle carries seven infantry-trained Marines hungry to show their power. The platoons typically go out in groups of four LAV-25s.

On most patrols, they find nothing. It can be a grueling work, especially when it is performed under the hot, Iraqi sun.

During a six-hour patrol earlier this week, one of the 2nd LAR's platoons came up empty. The wind blew nonstop at 30 mph or more and felt like a hairdryer set on "hot." The flour-like dirt that covers Iraq flew in the wind and stuck to sweaty faces.

Inside the LAVs, where the drivers and scouts hunched for two hours or more without a break, the temperature reached 126 degrees, according to one digital thermometer.

"It's miserable," said Lance Cpl. John Maturszewski, a 24-year-old gunner from Riverside, Calif. "I'm not

saying you can't tolerate it or take it, but it's not enjoyable, I'll tell you that."

"You put on the same pair of cammies for a week straight that are soaked stiff with your sweat and salt. The next day we put them on and do it again."

"It's our job. It's what we do; it's what we signed up for."

The Marines try to strike a balance between respecting the privacy of the Iraqi people who live along the route and checking out suspicious-looking activities.

At one point while the patrol was parked at a vantage point a half-mile from the highway, a car was spotted pulling up to a house near the highway. Through binoculars, the Marines saw its driver drop off a package and quickly drive away.

A group of scouts ran across the desert to the house to check it out. They didn't enter the house but saw nothing fishy from the outside.

The troops are trained to notice anything suspicious, such as someone digging a hole where there is no farm or someone tinkering on a roadside vehicle who suddenly stops when he sees the patrol approaching.

Stuff does happen, though.

A few days earlier, a motorcyclist sped up to a U.S. patrol and tossed a grenade into one of its vehicles, in-hering a discharge and sending him home in two to three weeks.

Winter's stepfather, Greg Kasmar, added Winter had wanted to be a helicopter pilot in the Army but found out that his eyesight was not good enough.

Donna May said his grandson notified his Army recruiter

A Light Armored Vehicle, or LAV-25, from the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, turns onto Iraq's Route 1 during a patrol Sunday between Abu Ghraib and Fallujah. It's the job of the Marines of Company D, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion to make Route 1 safe for trucks delivering supplies to U.S. bases. Every day and night, they go out looking for bombs and bad guys. Patrols travel in the LAVs, nicknamed "destroyers" by the Iraqis.

PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

try support for larger operations.

When one patrol returns to the base at Camp Bahariya, located on the southeast edge of Fallujah, another heads out to take up the job of highway patrol, its Marines hoping to find a bomb or a bad guy.

"I think our job is to make sure nothing happens," said Lance Cpl. Ray Parra, 20, of Phoenix. "If nothing happens, it's a good day."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.strips.com.sdl



Cpl. Jermaine Whitley, 21, of Jacksonville, Fla., a scout team leader for Company D, watches for suspicious activity.



Lance Cpl. Ray Parra, 20, of Phoenix, and Company D, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, patrol Route 1 from atop a Light Armored Vehicle. In the background is the vehicle's commander, Cpl. Tyler Valks, 22, of Denver.

Iowa man says recruiter tricked him into joining Army

The Associated Press

CLINTON, Iowa — A recent high school graduate is accusing an Army recruiter of tricking him into enlisting once he changed his mind about joining the military.

Ryan Winter, 18, says the recruiter repeatedly assured him before he reported to duty this month in Davenport that he would simply have to head to Fort

Jackson in South Carolina for a brief out-processing procedure.

"He said, 'I'm going to be back by next week,'" said his mother, Laurie Kasmar. Instead, she received an emotional phone message June 13 from their son, saying he had been tricked into joining the Army.

The office of U.S. Rep. Jim Nussle, R-Iowa, told the family Fri-

day that the Army has decided to give Winter a Chapter 11 general discharge and send him home in two to three weeks.

Winter's stepfather, Greg Kasmar, added Winter had wanted to be a helicopter pilot in the Army but found out that his eyesight was not good enough.

Donna May said his grandson notified his Army recruiter

months ago that he had changed his mind about joining.

Winter's family claims he was told if he did not sign final enlistment papers, he would be considered absent without leave, fined \$50,000, face prison time and never find a decent job again.

"He was intimidated, coerced," May said.

The Army will launch an inter-

nal investigation, and a congressional inquiry is under way, said Toni Harn, a spokeswoman for the Army's Recruiting Battalion in Des Moines.

Army Master Sgt. Jeffrey Wright, a longtime recruiter stationed in Des Moines, said there are many safeguards to protect enlistees, including a series of forms that must be signed and an oath taken accepting a contract.

Ceremonies mark command changes throughout Germany

Stars and Stripes

The 7th Army Reserve Command's 317th Support Center welcomed a new commander during one of several changes of command conducted in Germany earlier this month.

Lt. Col. Steven Zephir replaced Lt. Col. Alma J. Fernandez during the ceremony at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield. His previous assignment was senior operations officer for the 313th Support Center (Rear Operations Center), headquartered in Kaiserslautern. In his civilian job, he works as a management and program analyst in the 7th ARCOM's force programs office.

Fernandez, commander for nearly three years, led the unit through several major V Corps exercises before deploying to Iraq in March 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Other changes of command: ■ Lt. Col. Anthony K. Crawford took command of the 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion from Lt. Col. Hugh T. Smith in a ceremony at Kelley Barracks, Darmstadt, on June 15.

Crawford, who joined the military 21 years ago, previously served as executive assistant to Condoleezza Rice, national security adviser to President Bush. Smith moves on to the Senior Service College under the Advanced Operational Studies Fellowship.

■ Lt. Col. Anthony K. Chambers replaced Lt. Col. Charles F. Maskell as commander of the 181st Transportation Battalion of the 7th Corps Support Group, 3rd Corps Support Command, during a ceremony at Turley

Barracks in Mannheim on June 9.

Chambers, who has been in the military for 19 years, was previously assigned as the Combined Task Force-7th Corps transportation officer in Baghdad and the V Corps transportation officer in Heidelberg, Germany. Maskell's next assignment is at U.S. Army Europe headquarters in Heidelberg.

■ Lt. Col. Kathryn R. Hall took command of the 208th Finance Battalion, 266th Finance Command, in a ceremony at Mannheim's Spinnell Barracks on June 9, replacing Lt. Col. Mary Brooke Myers.

Hall, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, was previously deputy commander of the 266th Finance Command in Schweigen, Germany. Myers' next assignment is in the Pentagon.

■ Lt. Col. Thomas C. Beane Jr. is the new commander of the 510th Personnel Services Battalion, headquartered at Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim. Until June, he was assigned to the Army staff at the Pentagon, where he served as the administrative executive for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for training.

■ In another ceremony, scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday in Hangar 1035 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Lt. Col. Kyle D. Campbell will replace Lt. Col. Patrick D. Sargent as head of the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion.

Campbell's previous assignment was deputy chief of staff with the Europe Regional Medical Command. Sargent will attend the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pa.



Büdingen officials tied about 150 yellow ribbons to trees last week on news that an advance team of 1st Cavalry Regiment troops was returning to its home base after more than a year away. Leading the effort was Manfred Hix, the deputy mayor, and Claudia Trupp, a local tourism official.

KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

Welcome home all wrapped up

German town hangs yellow ribbons for Cavalry's return

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

BÜDINGEN, Germany — When word started to spread last week that a small advance team of 1st Cavalry Regiment troops was leaving Iraq for the friendly confines of Armstrong Barracks, Claudia Trupp knew it was knot time.

So Trupp, a German who works in Büdingen, drove out of her way that day to buy more than 1,600 feet of yellow ribbon, and then spent the night with four other volunteers making bows for the hordes heading home. By noon the next day, about 150 ribbons adorned parts of downtown Büdingen, from trees to an old castle gate.

The U.S. soldiers stationed in Büdingen "are a part of city life," said Manfred Hix, the deputy mayor.

Ties run deep between this city of 9,000 people and the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment of the 2nd Armored Division. About 2,000 Americans live in the com-

munity, according to Wolfgang Niebling, a 414th Base Support Battalion spokesman.

German officials, residents and shopkeepers go out of their way to make their American guests feel at home. In return, Americans are heavily involved in community activities, and have been for nearly 60 years.

Two years ago, when a flood threatened the old city center and its historic walls and gate, about 50 U.S. soldiers volunteered in the dead of night to help local crews fill sandbags and stem the rising water. They succeeded, and were later lauded by the mayor for their efforts.

The yellow ribbons that went up last Thursday "are a sign of the true friendship we have here" with the Americans, Hix said this week over a cup of coffee in the city center.

Yellow ribbons have become synonymous in the United States with hope, loyalty and a safe return, something Hix and Trupp are well aware of.

The idea to dress up Büdingen arose this past winter, they said, so when Lt. Col. Amy Elmann, the commander of the 414th Base Support Battalion, informed city officials that an advance team would soon return from Iraq to pave the way for the rest of the squadron, Trupp went ribbon shopping.

"While we were putting them up," Trupp said, "some Americans stopped by to express their support."

For security purposes, Army officials are being cautious about what they say about returning troops. The expectation is that most, if not all, of the 1st Cavalry — as well as the 1st Armored Division — will be home by late July or early August.

"Can't wait for the boys to come home," Pvt. Jeremy Wolf said Monday.

"Yeah," added Pvt. Christopher Welch, who was standing nearby, "we're really looking forward to it. Hopefully, everything will be back to normal."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Messages of Support

★ Spc Oaks and crew- To all three of you, remain strong and faithful—I know you guys are doing an awesome job, so keep it up. I love you baby and can't wait to hear from you. Everything is going fine here. Your family sends their love also, we miss you very, very much and are very, very proud of you. Stay focused on your mission and remember God is guiding you. I miss you and love you more than anything in the whole-wide world. You'll be home soon enough and I'll be waiting with open arms and the hug of a lifetime. Love always-Char XXXXXX

★ My prayers are with you all and hopefully most of you will return soon to your families proud of what has been accomplished because of a few good men and women such as yourselves. I am Mexican-American and very proud of this wonderful country that God saw fit to birth me in. Whenever someone hurts or does something to someone in MY country I take it personal. As I view on TV what the Iraqis are doing to some of our country men and women I take it personal. Just as we fight the devil in spiritual warfare so I with you fighting the enemy with prayer.

★ Hello, my name is April, I am 15 and I would like to say that I think that it is great that all of ya'll are out there fighting for everybody else's freedom and I hope that everyone of ya'll come back home safe.

They like Mike



STEPHEN P. WEAVER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Oscar-winning actor and producer Michael Douglas poses for a picture with sailors from Patrol Squadron 26 in their Sigonella hangar Saturday afternoon. Douglas visited Naval Air Station Sigonella to meet with their personnel before appearing at the Taormina Film Festival in the nearby Sicilian town. Douglas signed autographs and spoke to many base residents. The squadron is deployed to Sigonella from Brunswick, Maine.

MRE men continues evolving in 2005

New items debut on Capitol Hill to mixed reviews

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — As they design the combat rations that will keep U.S. troops fueled and moving in the field, the specialists at the Defense Department's Combat Feeding Directorate sometimes look for meals that provide emotional nourishment, as well as physical.

With its echoes of "Thanksgiving meals with family and friends," "stuffing," said Kathy-Lynn Evangelos, an executive assistant in the feeding directorate, "is comfort food."

The stuffing, with its chunks of sausage and fresh herbs, was the hit of the day Thursday, when directorate staff traveled from the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., to Capitol Hill to give civilians a taste of the latest in troop combat chow.

Pending troop approval, combat stuffing may make a 2006 appearance in Meals, Ready to Eat.

Natick food technicians were kept busy dishing up more than a dozen other entrees, ranging from cheesy ham and potatoes to beef burgundy. Some are destined for the field as soon as 2005, while others, such as the stuffing, are still waiting for a thumbs-up from troops who will test them this summer.

Natick is continuing a push to improve combat rations that began after Operation Desert Storm, when MREs were so bad "the best way to eat them was wearing goggles and with a bad head cold," according to Gerald Darsch, head of the combat feeding group.

Since 1993, more than 150 new items have been improved for inclusions in the meals, and menus are reviewed and reformulated on a yearly basis, Darsch said.

Troops also have more variety to choose from: 24 different MRE menus, instead of 12.

Expanded MRE offerings

The Meal, Ready-to-Eat is used by all the services to sustain individuals during operations that preclude organized food service facilities. The following is a list of new MRE meals.

MENU 1

Grilled beefsteak with mushroom gravy and western-style beans

Jam
Cracker
Candy
Steak sauce
Dairy shake
Red pepper
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 2

BBQ pork ribs

New England clam chowder
Cookie
Cheddar cheese
2 wheat snack bread
Electrolyte drink
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 3

Beef ravioli

Fruit, wet pack
Fudge brownie
Cheddar cheese
Veg.-flavored cracker
Chocolate-fortified drink
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 4

Cheese and veg. omelet

Hash browns with bacon
Toaster pastry
Jam
Cracker
Candy
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet C

MENU 5

Chicken breast fillet

Minestrone stew
Pound cake
Jalapeno cheese
Wheat snack bread
Candy
French vanilla coffee
Jalapeno ketchup
Spoon
Accessory packet B

MENU 6

Chicken fajita

Yellow and wild rice pilaf
Nut and raisin mix
Cheddar cheese
Tortilla
French vanilla coffee
Seasoning blend
Spoon
Accessory packet C

MENU 7

Chicken with salsa

Mexican rice
Shredded cheese
Jalapeno cheese
Veg.-flavored cracker
Mocha-flavored coffee
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet B

MENU 8

Hamburger patty

Mexican-style macaroni and cheese
Nacho-filled pretzels
Bacon cheese
2 wheat snack bread
Cured beef snacks
BBQ sauce
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet B

MENU 9

Beef stew

Chocolate sports bar
Peanut butter
Cracker
Dairy shake
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 10

Chili with macaroni

Cookie
Jalapeno cheese
Wheat snack bread
Candy
Cocoa
Red pepper
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 11

Penne with veg. sausage in spicy tomato sauce

Dried fruit
Pound cake
Peanut butter
Cracker
Electrolyte drink
Seasoning blend
Spoon
Accessory packet C

MENU 12

Veggie burger in BBQ sauce (vegetarian)

Dried fruit
Cinnamon scone
Hot sauce
2 wheat snack bread
Chocolate-fortified drink
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet B

MENU 13

Cheese tortellini (vegetarian)

Spiced apples
Pound cake
Peanut butter
Cracker
Candy
Seasoning blend
Spoon
Accessory packet C

MENU 14

Vegetable manicotti

Fruit, wet pack
Pound cake
Peanut butter
Cracker
Ranger bar
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet B

MENU 15

Beef enchiladas

Refined beans
Jalapeno cheese
Veg.-flavored cracker
Peanut butter
Chocolate-fortified drink
Red pepper
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 16

Chicken w/ noodles

Fruit, wet pack
Pretzels
Cheddar cheese
Cracker
Candy
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 17

Sloppy Joe filling

Baked snack cracker
Cheese
Cocoa
Chocolate cookie
Jalapeno cheese
2 wheat snack bread
Electrolyte drink
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 18

Cajun rice with sausage

Cheddar-filled pretzels
Peanut butter
Cracker
Nuts
Chocolate-fortified drink
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 19

Pot roast with vegetables

Dried fruit
Cookie
Peanut butter
Cracker
Cocoa
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 20

Spaghetti with meat sauce

Blueberry-cherry cobbler
Cheddar cheese
Wheat snack bread
Electrolyte drink
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 21

Chicken tetrazzini

Cookies
Jelly
Cracker
Dairy shake
Seasoning blend
Spoon
Accessory packet C

MENU 22

Jambalaya

Pound cake
Jam
Wheat snack bread
Dairy shake
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 23

Chicken with cavatelli

Fig bar
Pound cake
Bacon cheese
Wheat snack bread
Chocolate-fortified drink
Hot sauce
Spoon
Accessory packet A

MENU 24

Meatloaf with gravy

Mashed potatoes
Vanilla waffle cookie
Jelly
Cracker
Cocoa
Red pepper
Spoon
Accessory packet B

2005 MREs

What's new

- Penne with spicy tomato sauce; sloppy Joe filling; chicken fajitas; cheese omelets with vegetables; tortillas; and hash browns with bacon
- Smoke House almonds; Ranger bar; Cheese Nips; raisins, white chocolate/raspberry cookies; cinnamon scones and blueberry-cherry cobbler
- Carbohydrate-fortified beverage mix; carbohydrate-electrolyte beverage mix; jalapeno ketchup; and steak sauce

What's better

- The texture of many foods, thanks to better processing methods. Rice stays separate and isn't mushy; beef chunks are grained; and the oregano in tomato sauce, while others offer more sophisticated flavors, such as fire-roasted red peppers.
- Condiments are also more varied — not just salt or ketchup sauce. New meals also offer red pepper, spicy ketchup and seasoning blends.

What still needs work

- Keeping the taste and texture of cheese in meals prepared with it. "Cheese doesn't do well," even with the improved MRE processing methods, according to Janice Rosado, a physical scientist at the Combat Feeding Directorate.
- High cooking temperatures also prevent pasta from being offered "al dente," or chewy, although it isn't as mushy as it used to be, according to troop feedback.

Sources: Department of Defense Combat Feeding Directorate at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, Natick, Mass.; interviews with military and civilian taste testers.

SEE MRE ON PAGE 9

Source: DOD Combat Feeding Natick Soldier Center

PETER PHOTOK/Stars and Stripes



LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

A new energy gel, similar to the gels first popular among runners, is one of the Combat Feeding Directorate's nutraceuticals. High in carbohydrates, which provide immediate fuel for the body, the gel will be included in the First Strike combat rations due to be fielded in 2008.

Instant energy in a gel, gum

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Department's Combat Feeding Directorate is experimenting with ways to deliver instant energy to deployed troops — nutraceuticals.

A hybrid of the words "nutrition" and "pharmaceuticals," nutraceuticals are defined as an extract, from plant or animal material, that has health-related benefits beyond those obtained by normal nutritional means, according to the National Institutes of Health.

In the future, the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., might field a pill that a soldier would pop "instead of a turkey dinner," or a patch that would stay on a soldier's skin for days, all the time delivering microdoses of highly concentrated

nutrients, Combat Feeding leader Gerald Darsch said in a Thursday interview on Capitol Hill.

But for now, Natick has turned to the commercial world to produce its first two nutraceuticals: an energy gel similar to the ones popular among runners and a caffeinated chewing gum.

The gel, which actually has the consistency of a light cake frosting rather than sticky syrup, is high in carbohydrates and glucose, which provide immediate fuel for the body. Packaged in a lightweight pouch, the gel can be consumed on the move, Darsch said.

The energy gel will be included in the First Strike combat rations due to be fielded in 2008, and depending on its popularity, may be considered for inclusion in regular MREs or as a supplemental item, Darsch said.

SEE ENERGY ON PAGE 9

Scientist searches for remains of Vietnam GIs

BY MARGIE MASON
The Associated Press

KHONG TROI MOUNTAIN, Vietnam
For the past 12 years, C. Elliott Moore II has camped in mosquito-, leech- and snake-infested sites across Southeast Asia, searching for a sliver of bone, a tooth, a dog tag — anything left of U.S. soldiers still missing nearly 30 years after the Vietnam War. A forensic anthropologist with the military's Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Moore decides where to dig and for how long in conditions plagued by erosion, scavenging and even bone-eating acid soil.

For the 1,800 American families who long for answers and a small piece of their loved ones to bury, he is often the last hope.

"Vietnam was the war of my generation. So many paid the ultimate sacrifice to come over here and wage war for American policy of that time and, of course, it wasn't a happy ending," says Moore, 53, smoking a Marlboro while perched on a thick root overlooking an excavation site.

"This is just one way I can pay my dues."

With a high draft number, Moore volunteered to fight in Vietnam in 1968. But he was turned down when doctors realized he had only 10 percent of his hearing — his deafness the result of experimental antibiotics used to treat pneumonia as a baby.

The son of a doctor and a nurse, Moore yearned to do medical work. But he was rejected by medical schools, and forensic anthropology became the answer.



C. Elliott Moore II, an anthropologist for the U.S. military, has spent more than a decade searching Southeast Asia for a sliver of bone, a tooth, a dog tag — anything left of U.S. soldiers still missing after the Vietnam War. Moore had himself tried to volunteer for the fight but was turned down because of significant hearing loss. Rejected by medical schools as well, Moore found the answer as a forensic anthropologist.

In 1992, after earning his doctorate, Moore joined the Hawaii-based team, which sends men and women from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines in search of remains from as far back as World War II. Anything recovered is sent to Oahu where experts, including Moore, work to match DNA to lost soldiers.

"He's something of a legend to everyone," says Sardinia Paul, a

civilian at the lab. "Everywhere you go, people know him."

All of the easily accessible Vietnam War sites have been picked clean, yielding more than 700 identified sets of remains since 1973.

The remaining locations are daunting. Some are situated on 65-degree inclines that require searchers to strap themselves to trees and form bucket brigades, passing soil to be sifted through

metal screens in search of bone fragments.

The site on the Laotian border in central Vietnam is at 1,800 feet, so high the villagers call it "Khong Troi," or mountain with no clouds. Accessible mainly by helicopter, it's just off old Route 10, which once served as a North Vietnamese supply line.

Moore rattles off the history of the site, where two men in a twin-engine Cessna were shot

down during a reconnaissance mission in 1968. Human remains have been recovered here, but the team of Americans and Vietnamese will not leave until the 120-by-120 foot area is fully excavated.

"They always give the tough sites to Hoss," said Army Capt. Octave "Mac" MacDonald, the recovery team's leader from Baton Rouge, La., referring to Moore by his nickname.

"I think that's pretty much because he's the best."

At 6-foot-4 and 270 pounds, Moore, of Stilwell, Kan., is a source of curiosity.

With his can of Copenhagen snuff, Cambodian scarf and wide-brimmed straw hat, one U.S. team member described him as a cross between Indiana Jones and the Marlboro Man.

He's worked hard to cultivate strong bonds with residents, who often recognize him in the remotest places, calling out a friendly "Hoss!" or "Doc Moore!"

"To get along with your counterparts, no matter which culture you're in, you break bread with 'em, drink their whiskey and eat their food," he says, laughing. "I've eaten about every kind of critter they have in this country."

He admits the months away from his wife, Ginny, their three children and six grandchildren aren't easy — especially since he's lucky to get home twice a year.

Moore says he gets immense satisfaction from helping return lost soldiers to their families, and he says his work also sends a message to soldiers in Iraq: No matter what happens, someone will bring them home.

MRE: Capitol Hill staffers uninspired after sampling expanded offerings

MRE, FROM PAGE 5

A larger selection is important for morale, First Sgt. Colin Rich, a combat veteran with the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment out of Fort Bragg.

"Variety is the spice of life," Rich, who attended the tasting session, told Stars and Stripes.

Variety is especially critical for the minority of troops who have to eat MREs for weeks, and occasionally months, on end: Darsch said he's heard from a one-star general deployed to Iraq who together with his troops ate "nothing but MREs, three times a day, for 118 days straight."

"I think that may be a record," he said.

Told that many servicemen eat MREs for weeks at a time, Richard Hoar, a 22-year-old staffer on the House Committee for Education in the Workforce, looked startled.

"I feel bad for them," he said after eating his first military ration. "It's pretty bland."

Then he looked impressed. "More power to them," Hoar said.

A fellow staffer on the education committee, 23-year-old Donald McIntosh, said the spread

Energy: Caffeine gum to deliver coffee jolt to servicemembers

ENERGY, FROM PAGE 5

The Marine Corps asked Natick to provide samples of the gel for Marines to try while deployed to Afghanistan and have been so impressed that service leaders "have now committed to buy" it in bulk, Darsch said. Funding has yet to be secured, however.

The second is Stay Alert Caffeine Gum, a cinnamon-flavored chew that delivers 100 milligrams of caffeine per piece — roughly equivalent to a cup of brewed coffee, which ranges from 80 to 135 mg.

Stay Alert is produced by Amur Confections, which introduced a 50-milligram-per-stick gum in 1998.

Commercial versions of caffeine gum are readily available, but most offer considerably less punch. Jolt gum has 40 mg of caffeine, or less than half of Stay Alert, while Black Black, a Japanese brand, has just 10 mg of caffeine per stick.

Stay Alert is so powerful that package directions warn against chewing more than three pieces in three hours, or 10 sticks per day.

Like the energy gel, the five-stick packs of Stay Alert will be included in the First Strike combat rations.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

was uninspiring.

"It looked good when I first saw it, but everything tastes the same, honestly," said McIntosh of his first encounter with MREs.

"But I ate it all, if that says any-

thing," McIntosh said.

"Tabasco helped," he said — a discovery made by countless chowhounds before him.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

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Construction not slowing Ramstein traffic

Necessity keeps airfield operating during upgrades

BY MARNI MCENTEE
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Ramstein's airfield management team is engaged in a high-speed balancing act.

Its airmen must juggle air operations at one of the busiest bases in the Air Force while helping coordinate work schedules and safety standards for dozens of construction projects around the airfield.

Neither mission can wait. At least 90 flights take off or land at Ramstein daily, carrying troops and cargo from Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Africa, as well as ill and injured patients from the war zones and around Europe.

All this air traffic has to work around a \$400 million construction project to prepare the base to take over airfield operations from Rhein-Main Air Base in December 2005.

"We're sustaining a high operations tempo while building a brand-new airfield base underneath our feet," said Lt. Col. Clifford Puckett, commander of the 435th Operations Support Squadron.

"Ideally, we would shut the base down for 18 months. But, unfortunately, our nation's airfield needs are such that we can't take that time," Puckett said.

A trip around the airfield Tuesday gave a snapshot of how complicated it can be to



MARNI MCENTEE/Stars and Stripes

A C-130 comes into view as its pilot practices a touch-and-go landing near a construction project Tuesday at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Base airfield management airmen are keeping air traffic at full volume while the base undergoes massive construction to get ready for the transition from Rhein-Main Air Base to Ramstein next year.

get it all done. The 13 members of the squadron's Airfield Management Team are helping manage more than 40 concurrent construction projects on the airfield, said Senior Master Sgt. Arturo Jayme, chief of the team.

All water, communications and fuel lines are being replaced. Two runways will be built along with several taxiways, two parking ramps and a state-of-the-art aircraft navigation system.

"Our airfield construction is by far the largest and most complex project taking place in the Air Force," Jayme said.

To make matters worse, up to three of the team's members are deployed at any one time, said Master Sgt. Keith Taylor, deputy chief of airfield management, who just returned from Iraq.

The ops tempo isn't expected to slow down in the near future. In fact, some construction may be extended to night shifts

Hard work not unnoticed

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The Air Force has named Ramstein's Airfield Management team the best in the service for 2003, according to a news release.

Part of the 435th Operations Support Squadron, the team was lauded for managing more than 40 airfield construction projects while ensuring that the base continued its busy strategic airfield mission.

The Air Force also named Senior Master Sgt. Arturo Jayme, chief of airfield management, as the Airfield Management senior noncommissioned officer of the year.

Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Stackhouse was named the team's Terminal Instrument Procedures Specialist of the Year.

— Marni McEntee

this summer to keep the project on schedule, Jayme said.

And contractors are supposed to finish the airfield's new runway so it can be used by January. If not, the current runway may have to be shut down earlier to allow for emergency repairs.

"I don't see 2004 being any quieter than 2003," Puckett said.

E-mail Marni McEntee at: mcentee@mail.strips.esd.mil

U.S., Russian sailors spend time on each other's ships

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

When Senior Chief Petty Officer William Bridgeforth joined the military 19 years ago, the Russian navy was the enemy.

Last week, it was his home. The Bridgeforth and Petty Officer 3rd Class Darrell Crawford of the cruiser USS San Jacinto recently spent the day aboard the Russian frigate Neustrashimy during exercise Baltic Operations 2004.

"It felt different to be up close and personal with, and talking to, someone that you had been trained and sworn to defend against," Bridgeforth said in an e-mail response to questions.

The San Jacinto and the Neustrashimy were working together in the just-finished BALTOPS exercise, which included more than 5,000 military personnel aboard 38 ships from 13 countries.

Part of the exercise included what officials called "cross-pollination" of sailors between ships.

Cdr. Dan Bates, the exercise public affairs officer, said that they "cross-pollinated" two or three sailors between the different ships.

"It allows sailors to learn from each other and also see how others live and operate," he wrote in an e-mail. "They compare notes on common operations like engineering and bridge watches."

Crawford and Bridgeforth were selected by San Jacinto to visit the Neustrashimy.

"The biggest difference in the two ships was the technology used," wrote Crawford. "For the most part it seemed that the Russians were more dependent on mechanical

equipment, where we are more dependent on electronic equipment."

"Other areas, such as their flight deck and weapons systems, seemed to be about the same as ours, [but] with slight variations on procedures."

Neustrashimy is the Russian equivalent of a U.S. Navy frigate, having similar displacement — how ships are "weighed" — at about 4,000 tons and a crew size of about 215. San Jacinto displaces about twice Neustrashimy's weight and has a crew of about 365.

Sailors on both ships, Crawford said, share similar long working hours and spend their limited time off playing cards, watching movies or catching up on sleep.

Living and dining conditions for the Russian officers — their tour guides during the 10 hours aboard — were similar to those on San Jacinto.

"The food was very good," said Crawford, who's been stationed on two ships during his four years in the Navy. "Lunch consisted of an appetizer plate of beefs, carrot salad and small pieces of herring, followed by cabbage soup. For the main course we had potatoes and sausage."

"It was good [but] somewhat of an acquired taste," said Bridgeforth. "I would say the potatoes and cabbage soup was great."

"One thing I did find out was that they do not have Internet or e-mail access like most U.S. ships do now," said Crawford, a Granite Falls, N.C., native. "It's the small things like that, [which] we take for granted, that they have never had."

The day after the visit by Crawford and Bridgeforth a few Russian sailors visited the U.S. ship.

"I would have to agree with a comment made by [Russian navy journalist], Capt.



ERIC BROWN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Senior Chief Petty Officer William Bridgeforth of USS San Jacinto looks at a fireplug and other firefighting equipment on the Russian frigate Neustrashimy June 9. Bridgeforth spent the day aboard Neustrashimy during exercise Baltic Operations 2004.

[Konstantin] Sobora," said Crawford. "It's not about the ships, it's about meeting new people and learning about them and their culture."

Bridgeforth agreed, saying a visit like this is helping to thaw the remains of Cold War tensions.

"I think they felt the same way because this is something [the Cold War] that we had no control over," said Bridgeforth, who grew up in Detroit.

"But now, views and ideas have changed. I am glad that I may have had some small part in that, maybe just through a firm handshake and a smile."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.strips.esd.mil

Vietnam to allow U.S. to search for missing GIs

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — The Vietnamese government has agreed to grant U.S. investigators access to the country's national archives in their efforts to account for American soldiers missing in action since the war in Southeast Asia, the Defense Department said.

Archivists from both countries will have access to government records with permission to pursue leads wherever the information may take them, the Defense Department said in a news release posted last week on its Web site.

The senior U.S. official that oversees policy for POW/MIA accounting announced the agreement, among others, after three days of talks last week with high level Vietnamese officials.

"I'm very pleased at the outcome of our discussions here," said Jerry D. Jennings, deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/MIA affairs. "This commitment from the highest levels of the Vietnamese government offers us the opportunity to achieve significant results." About 1,800 servicemen remain missing from the Vietnam War, according to the military's Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

IN THE STATES

Wal-Mart suit
now class-action

By DAVID PRATT

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge on Tuesday approved class-action status for a sex-discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart Stores Inc. that has become the largest private civil rights case in U.S. history.

It could represent as many as 1.6 million current and former female employees of the retailing giant.

The suit alleges Wal-Mart created a system that frequently pays its female workers less than their male counterparts for comparable jobs and bypasses women for key promotions.

Wal-Mart, the largest private employer in the United States and the world's biggest retailer, sought to limit the scope of the lawsuit that was filed three years ago.

Wal-Mart spokeswoman Mona Williams told The Associated Press earlier Tuesday that the Bentonville, Ark.-based company will appeal and is confident that it

does not discriminate against women employees.

No trial date was set.

U.S. District Judge Martin Jenkins took nine months to decide whether to expand the lawsuit to include virtually all women who work or have worked at Wal-Mart's 3,500 stores nationwide since 1998. His ruling makes the lawsuit the largest class action in the United States.

In morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange, Wal-Mart shares were down \$1.02, or nearly 2 percent, at \$53.91.

The ruling is pivotal because it gives lawyers for the women tremendous leverage as they pursue punitive damages, back pay and other compensation.

"I think it's a terrific victory for the women who work at Wal-Mart who have labored for years under working conditions where they have been told repeatedly they have been unsuitable for management and not suitable to make as much as men," said Joseph Sellers, one of the attorneys representing the women.



Betty Dukes, right, poses with fellow plaintiffs, from right, Patricia Jenkins, Stephanie Odle and Christine Kwapnoski, in September. A federal judge on Tuesday approved a class-action sex-discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Betty Dukes, one of the women spearheading the suit, said she was paid just \$8.44 per hour during her first nine years working at a variety of positions at Wal-Mart's store in Pittsburg, Calif., while several men holding similar jobs but less seniority earned \$9 per hour.

Williams said the ruling has nothing to do with the merits of the case.

"Judge Jenkins is simply saying he thinks it meets the legal requirements necessary to move forward as a class action," Williams said.

In a hearing last September, company attorneys urged Jenkins to allow so-called mini-class action lawsuits targeting each out-let.

Wal-Mart contends its stores operate with so much autonomy that they are like independent businesses with different management styles that affect the way women are paid and promoted.

Jenkins ruled that a 1964 congressional act passed during the civil rights movement prohibits sex discrimination and that giant corporations are not immune.

State Dept.
now says
terror
injuries up

By BARRY SCHWED

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Correcting an inaccurate report, the State Department announced Tuesday that acts of terror worldwide increased slightly last year and the number of people wounded rose dramatically.

The department also reported a decline in the number of people killed — from 725 during 2002. But in April, the department reported 307 people had been killed last year — a much bigger decline.

"The number were off," Secretary of State Colin Powell said, and "we have identified how we have to do this in the future." He also said the initial report was not designed to "make our efforts look better or worse."

The findings had been used by senior Bush administration officials to bolster President Bush's claim of success in countering terrorism.

Initially, 190 acts of terror were reported in 2003, a slight decrease from the 198 attacks reported for 2002. On Tuesday, the State Department said there were 208 acts of terror last year, a slight increase from 2002.

Thirty-five U.S. citizens died in international terror attacks last year. The deadliest incident was a suicide bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in May in which nine Americans were killed.

The report did not include U.S. troops killed or wounded in Iraq or the incidents there, in its report "because they were directed at combatants." Attacks against civilians and unarmed military personnel were included.

A total of 3,646 people were wounded worldwide in terror attacks last year, the report said. This represented a sharp increase from the 2,013 wounded in 2002.

In April, the department had said that 1,593 people were wounded in 2003, a sharp decline from the previous year.

The initial report was issued April 28. On June 10, the State Department acknowledged the findings were inaccurate. Powell attributed the errors partly to a new data system and said there was no attempt to manipulate the figures to buttress Bush's argument.

When the report was issued, senior administration officials claimed that it showed Bush's counter-terror campaign was a success.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the report was based "on the facts as we had them at the time. The facts that we had were wrong."

The April report said attacks had declined from 190, down from 198 in 2002 and 346 in 2001. The 2003 figure would have been the lowest level in 34 years and a 45 percent drop since 2001, Bush said in a year-end press conference. The department is now working to determine the correct figures.

Senate OKs fine boost

WASHINGTON — In the latest effort to curb indecency over the airwaves, the Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved raising the maximum fines for broadcasters and personalities who cross the line.

Under the measure passed by a 99-1 vote, the maximum fine for both broadcasters and entertainers would increase to up to \$275,000 per incident, up from \$27,500 for license holders and \$11,000 for personalities, for a maximum fine of \$3 million a day.

The House passed a similar bill calling for \$500,000 fines, and dif-

ferences between the two must be worked out.

Nader's running mate

WASHINGTON — Presidential candidate Ralph Nader tapped longtime Green Party activist Peter Camejo to be his running mate, a move certain to boost the independent's chances of winning this week.

An investment adviser from Folsom, Calif., Camejo had been one of two leading contenders for the Green Party's presidential nomination this year. But he is little-known outside California.

From The Associated Press

Conn. politics in play
after governor quits

The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Once a GOP rising star, Gov. John G. Rowland is stepping down amid swirling corruption allegations, giving both Republicans and Democrats hope that they can somehow emerge stronger from the long-brewing scandal.

In a short speech Monday that barely touched on his legal difficulties, Rowland said he would leave office next week. He becomes the first U.S. governor in seven years to resign under pressure.

Democrats hope Rowland's resignation will give them a better chance to reclaim the governor's office in 2006, while Republicans hope Rowland's departure came soon enough to give the party a chance to rebuild.

Gov. M. Jodi Bell, a Republican, will be elevated to governor when Rowland's resignation takes effect at noon on July 1.

But she hasn't said if she would seek the office in her own right when it's up for election in 2006.

State and federal authorities

have been investigating allegations that Rowland took gifts and favors from friends, state contractors and state employees in exchange for political influence, an accusation the governor has denied. A special House committee also had been considering whether to recommend Rowland's impeachment.

On Tuesday, Rowland's attorneys continued their fight to block the testimony of former legal aide Ann George, who has been subpoenaed to appear before the federal grand jury investigating the governor.

Rowland, citing attorney-client privilege, argues that she cannot be forced to testify. But federal prosecutors argue that George worked for the office of the governor, not Rowland himself.

A three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in the dispute Tuesday in a closed session in New York.

With a Republican governor leaving amid turmoil, Democrats hope to reclaim the office of Gov. William A. O'Neill, who served from 1980 to 1991.

Three Democrats have already formally announced bids for governor in 2006. Stamford Mayor Daniel Malloy, New Haven Mayor John DeStefano Jr. and Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz.



Rowland



Reader's
Digest



Reader's Digest wants to find out
which military service is the funniest.

The monthly magazine is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its "Humor in Uniform" column by running a contest to find the most humorous true anecdotes from military life. Active-duty, Reserve and retired servicemembers and their families can participate.

Entries must be submitted to www.rd.com/starsstripes by June 30. They also can be mailed to: "The Funniest Branch of the Military Contest," Reader's Digest, P.O. Box 1598, Newburg, NY 12550.

Entries must include the entrant's full name, e-mail address and street address. Anecdotes should be no more than 100 words, true, original and related to the armed services.

The magazine's editors will select finalists from each service to appear in the September edition. Readers will then be asked to log on to www.rd.com to choose their favorite, and their votes will determine the winner.

The winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip for two to St. Kitts Marriott & Royal Beach Casino in the Caribbean. The other four finalists will receive \$500. Those anecdotes are selected for publication in future "Humor in Uniform" columns will receive \$300.

Spaceship designer sees no rush to get paying customers

BY JOHN ANTCAK
The Associated Press

MOJAVE, Calif. — The chubby-looking, stubby-winged aircraft that cracked the commercial space flight barrier this week may have made a great leap forward in aviation history, but the man who designed it believes we are still a long way from regular space tourism.

SpaceShipOne, designed by aviation pioneer Burt Rutan, soared to 328,491 feet above Earth on Monday, just a little more than 400 feet above the distance scientists widely consider to be the boundary of space. The flight lasted 90 minutes.

However, Rutan said there was a serious malfunction in part of the system that fine-tunes the flight controls. He said that will have to be fixed before the craft flies again.

Pilot Mike Melvill, who has set world records for altitude and speed and logged more than 6,400 hours of flight time in fixed-wing aircraft and seven helicopters, said the experience "blew me away."

"It was really an awesome sight," he said of gazing down at the Earth's curvature from 62

miles above, of seeing the planet in all its various colors and gazing at the California coastline from Los Angeles to San Diego.

"It was like nothing I'd ever seen before," he said.

"You really do get the feeling that you've touched the face of God when you do something like this," the 63-year-old pilot added.

His flight led to immediate speculation that the well-heeled would pay plenty for the experience. But Rutan said he has doubts space tourism will be feasible any time soon.

SpaceShipOne was designed by one of two dozen teams trying to win the \$10 million Ansari X Prize, which will go to the first that can launch a three-seat spacecraft to an altitude of 62 miles twice in 14 days. SpaceShipOne's effort is bankrolled by billionaire Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, who is spending more than \$20 million.

The three-seat requirement demonstrates the capacity for paying customers; the quick turnaround between flights demonstrates reusability and reliability.

But for a commercial venture to be successful, Rutan said he believes a spacecraft would need at least six seats.



SpaceShipOne pilot Mike Melvill celebrates atop the craft at the Mojave, Calif., airport Monday following his trip to suborbital space. The privately developed rocket plane is the world's first commercial manned space vehicle and the first nongovernmental flight to leave the Earth's atmosphere.



Mel Novik of Brooklyn, N.Y., receives a wristband that will allow him to have his copy of Bill Clinton's "My Life" signed by the former president at a Barnes & Noble bookstore in New York on Tuesday. Fans lined up outside bookshops from Arkansas to New York to snap up copies of the former president's autobiography.

Fans line up for Clinton's book

BY SARA KUGLER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eager for a few seconds of face time with their idol, hundreds of Bill Clinton's fans crowded along several city blocks Tuesday near a Manhattan bookstore where he was scheduled to sign copies of his new memoir, "My Life."

"Bill Clinton is a rock star," said Lynne Roberts, 37, who set up camp Monday night, nearly 15 hours before the signing was to begin. "He is our cultural icon and we miss him now more than ever, given everything that's going on in the world."

The Rockefeller Center Barnes & Noble planned to give out more than 1,000 wristbands that would allow customers to purchase several copies, but only one autographed by the former president, who was to arrive at 12:30 p.m.

Although fans were told there would be no time to talk to Clinton, Dana Scinto of Stamford, Conn., said she would try to convey a message anyway.

"I want to thank him for eight fun years where he didn't insult my intelligence or rule by fear like our current president," said Scinto, 39, as she waited on 48th Street, a short distance from the Fifth Avenue store entrance.

By 7:15 a.m., the line extended up and around Sixth Avenue and halfway down 49th Street.

Those who spent the night on the concrete said an atmosphere of camaraderie helped speed the waiting. Roberts said she played gin rummy with her boyfriend and read a newspaper before swaddling herself in a sleeping bag for a few hours' nap.

Clinton also was scheduled to sign books Tuesday night at Hue-Man bookstore in Harlem, where he has an office.

Bookstores in New York, Washington and Little Rock, Ark., stayed open late Monday night for buyers who wanted to snap up their copies right at midnight.

The Books-A-Million store in North Little Rock, Ark., staged a party with trivia contests that drew about 80 people. Those who attended also could sign up for a later drawing giving them an opportunity to have their book signed by Clinton.

Although initial reviews have called the book self-serving and dull, Garry Caldwell, 54, of Sherwood, Ark., said he wanted to read "My Life" to better understand Clinton's political legacy.

"I believe in listening to both sides of the argument and making up my own mind," he said. "I think he was a good president — I think he could have been one of the best presidents except for the scandals."

Alfred A. Knopf has given the memoirs a first printing of 1.5 million. Mary Ellen Keating, a spokeswoman for Barnes & Noble, said she expected the book to be the best-selling presidential memoir in the company's history.

To promote the book, Clinton has served as keynote speaker at BookExpo America, the publishing industry's annual national convention, and been interviewed by "60 Minutes," Time magazine and the British Broadcasting Corp., among others. Over the next month, he will visit independent booksellers, chain supermarkets, black-owned stores such as Hue-Man, and price clubs such as Costco.

Critics and Clinton's political opponents have not been kind to the book. Rush Limbaugh has said the book should be called "My Lie." The New York Times' Michiko Kakutani, in a front-page review Sunday, called it "sloppy, self-indulgent and often eye-crossingly dull."

Home exercise rooms focusing on yoga

BY LORI JOHNSTON
The Associated Press

STATHAM, Ga. — Mats, mirrored walls and gurgling fountains are replacing iron weights, bulky cardio equipment and loud televisions in some home exercise rooms as yoga enters the picture as a mainstream fitness option.

Some homeowners are requesting yoga rooms while others are getting the idea from show homes such as the Southern Living Idea House in the gated Georgia Club community near the University of Georgia and high-end home tours in other cities around the nation.

Atlanta interior designer Elizabeth Hutcherson said that some of her cli-

ents, especially older homeowners who can no longer do a hardcore cardiovascular exercise because of the stress on their knees and joints, have requested yoga rooms in their homes — new and old.

More people are practicing yoga, and some are using private consultants so they can do chanting, deep breathing and poses like downward-facing dog in the "privacy of their own homes," said Hutcherson, a principal in H&L Design Group, which has decorated the Southern Living Idea House.

The yoga room in that house, which opened for public tours this month, is outfitted with yoga mats and equipment provided by Hugger Mugger, a

Colorado-based yoga products company, as well as a balance bar, mirrors, laminated wood flooring and a breezy ceiling fan.

Rial Jones, a custom home builder in Orlando, Fla., said that young buyers and homeowners moving to the area from the West Coast as well as South American and Asian countries are asking for rooms to practice yoga and meditate.

"In these houses where we're doing game rooms and theater rooms and exercise rooms, even though they're large houses with many rooms, there's quite often not a place that's sort of away from the main activity center of the house," he said. "This provides a room that is away from all the high activity and noise of the house set aside with a nice view."



Anne-Michelle Langlois, right, and fellow designer Elizabeth Hutcherson try out the 2004 Southern Living Idea House located in Athens, Ga. The room includes a variety of workout tools.

IN THE WORLD

Russians chase Chechen rebels who killed at least 57 in attack

BY YURI BAGROV
The Associated Press

CHERMENT, Russia — Thousands of troops poured into a southern Russian city Tuesday, chasing Chechen rebels who set fire to police and government buildings in coordinated attacks that killed at least 57 people, officials said.

The dead included 47 law enforcement officers or officials, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported, citing Beslan Khankoyev, acting interior minister of the republic of Ingushetia. A U.N. humanitarian worker was among the dead, authorities said.

Three high-ranking regional officials also were among the dead.

The attacks underscored the Russian military's failure to defeat separatists in neighboring Chechnya after five years of fighting, and raised new fears of spreading violence in southern Russia.

Many Chechen fighters trained and fought with the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan. Russia says many Arabs and other foreigners fight side-by-side with the Chechen rebels.

The Chechen militants also are said to receive support from al-Qaida and have strong contacts with the Wahhabi Muslim sect of Saudi Arabia, birthplace of al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden. The deeply fundamental beliefs of Wahhabism are believed to be bin Laden's spiritual foundation.

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered authorities "to find and destroy" the militants, whose



People look at burned-out jeeps at Nazran, Ingushetia, on Tuesday. Thousands of federal troops streamed into the southern Russian city on Tuesday in pursuit of suspected Chechen rebels who set fire to police and government buildings killing at least 48 people.

raid came amid preparations for an August election to replace Kremlin-backed Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov, killed last month in a bombing. Kadyrov's death was seen as a significant blow to Putin's efforts to bring some stability to Chechnya, devastated by two wars since the 1990s.

"Those who can be caught must be taken alive and brought to

trial," Putin told a Kremlin meeting of police and security officials in remarks on state television.

Shortly before midnight Monday, about 100 fighters armed with grenades and rocket launchers seized the regional Interior Ministry in Nazran, the largest city in Ingushetia, and attacked border guard posts there. They also attacked posts in the villages

of Karabulak and Yandare, near the border with Chechnya, regional emergency officials said.

Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev told Putin that 15 officers from the Ingush Interior Ministry's central building defended it for nearly six hours in a bid to keep rebels from entering the jail cells and freeing captives, Interfax reported.

Belgian child-killer given life sentence

BY ALEXANDER RATZ
The Associated Press

ARLON, Belgium — Belgium's most reviled criminal, Marc Dutroux, was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison for a spate of child kidnappings, rapes and murders that horrified the nation and drew international notoriety.

In verdicts broadcast live on national television, Judge Stéphane Goux said he hoped the sentencing would offer Dutroux's victims a sense of closure.

"I hope your future will be better now, and that you move on," Goux said after reading a 50-page decision of more than 200 counts against Dutroux and three co-defendants, which listed the torture and sexual acts committed against minors.

Dutroux, 47, was convicted last week of abducting, imprisoning and raping six girls. He also was found guilty of murdering two of the girls, 17-year-old An Marchal and 19-year-old Eefje Lambrecks, as well as an accomplice, Bernard Weinstein. Two other girls starved to death while being held in a hidden dungeon in his basement.

Dutroux was handed a life sentence with no chance of parole because of the "danger he represents to society, Goux said.

His ex-wife, Michelle Martin, was sentenced to 30 years in prison. She was held responsible for the deaths of the two 8-year-olds, who starved to death while Dutroux was serving a short jail sentence for car theft. Martin testified she was too afraid to enter the basement to feed them.

An accomplice, Michel Lelievre, was sentenced to 25 years behind bars. He was convicted of complicity in the kidnappings and other charges.

The final co-defendant, Michel Nibbel, received a 5-year term for his part in a gang that smuggled drugs and people into Belgium.

The sentencing ended a 3½-month trial in a case that haunted Belgium for nearly a decade.

Iran may release British sailors

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Tuesday it could release eight British sailors accused of illegally entering Iran's territorial waters depending on the interrogations, stepping back from earlier statements that they would be prosecuted.

"If the outcome of the interrogations of the British military men shows that they had no bad intention, they will be released soon," said Gen. Ali Reza Afshar, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

The comments by Afshar, an Iranian Armed Forces spokesman, suggested a softening of Iran's position on the fate of the eight sailors, who were detained Monday in the Shatt-al-Arab as they were delivering a patrol boat for the new Iraqi Riverine Patrol Service.

The Shatt-al-Arab, known as the Arvand River in Iran, runs along the Iran-Iraq border.

Earlier Tuesday, Al-Alam TV said the sailors would be prosecuted "for illegally entering Iranian territorial waters."

In their television statements Tuesday night, the

two British servicemen said they had entered Iranian waters by mistake. The broadcast, on Arabic language Al-Alam television, also showed the three British military patrol boats and weapons it said had been confiscated from the sailors.

"My name is Sergeant Thomas Harkins from the British Royal Marines. I do apologize for entering Iranian territorial waters," the one said on Al-Alam.

A British government official did not dispute Harkins's name and rank. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw phoned his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharrazi to ask for the release of the sailors, who were earlier shown on Iranian television blindfolded and seated cross-legged on the ground.

The Foreign Office said it had summoned Iranian Ambassador Morteza Sarmadi to demand an explanation of why the sailors were arrested on a "routine mission" in the Shatt-al-Arab waterway.

The waterway, Iraq's main link with the Persian Gulf that divides Iran and Iraq, has long been a source of tension between the neighbors.

The British Defense Ministry said the sailors may have inadvertently strayed into Iranian waters.



Source: British Ministry of Defence AP

6 arrested in Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain — Authorities arrested six Bahrainis in pre-dawn raids Tuesday, alleging they have ties to al-Qaida, a defense lawyer said.

The official Bahrain News Agency confirmed six arrests, but said only that they were made "to prevent them from committing dangerous acts that threaten property and people."

The raids were carried out early Tuesday, when the men were taken from their homes, said Abdullah Hashim, a lawyer representing five of the suspects. "My clients were picked up early this morning, and I believe they have no links to al-Qaida," Hashim said.

Brothers Yaser Kamal, 27, who owns a used car dealership, and Omar Abdullah Mohamed Kamal, 18, were among those arrested.

The four others detained were identified by attorney Hashim as Bassam Bukhuwa, Bassam al-Ali, Moheiddin Khan and Ali Khan. Bukhuwa, al-Ali and Moheiddin Khan had been detained in February 2003 in a weapons case but were released.

From The Associated Press

OPINION

Clinton's quip: why communicates clearly

BY ELLIS HENICAN

Newsway

Among all the explanations that guys have given over the years, this one could very well be the greatest of them all.

"Just because I could," Bill Clinton said of his sleazy Oval Office encounters with the eager intern Monica Lewinsky.

Write that down to remember another day.

Really, it's perfect Clinton. Perfect perfect, too.

Simple. Straightforward. And who wouldn't believe an explanation like that? Again, Bill Clinton, who taught us so much about getting into trouble, teaches us also how to respond to that trouble, no matter how sticky the trouble is. Here the president who keeps on giving to his country, three-plus years into Chappaqua-time! The Monica explanation, delivered to Dan Rather for "60 Minutes" as part of Clinton's book-promotion campaign, has several things going for it, not the least of which is that it almost certainly is the truth. Part of the truth, anyway.

No, it wasn't just the eye-popping sexiness of the nubile Lewinsky physique packed into a thong.

Clinton hooked up with her because she was willing and because she was there. And honestly, how many opportunities for cheap, casual frolics does a married president really have? Isn't it like he can freely trawl the singles bars of Georgetown without somebody noticing him.

Ah, sipping on a strawberry margarita ...

Tossing off clever opening lines ...

Isn't that the president? "Hi-ya, Sweetheart. How 'bout you and me go jump up and down on Abraham Lincoln's bed!" Even Clinton didn't use that kind of maneuver, not so anyone has been yet able to prove.

At last, "just because I could" throws a big, wet blanket over the relentless anti-Clinton hit squads, which seem not to have missed a trigger-pull lately. And did you notice how Clinton wrapped his explanation in the bright floral paper of earnest-sounding self-criticism and some professed rejection of the easy way out? His simple explanation, Clinton said, is "the worst possible reason ... I think that's just about the most morally indefensible reason that anybody could have for doing anything. There are lots of sophisticated explanations, more-complicated psychological explanations, but none of them are an excuse."

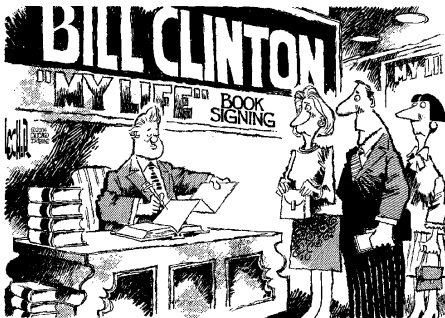
So there.

Beat yourself before your opponents start to beat you. A little self-flagellation goes a very long way.

People who know the Clintons on a more personal basis than I do have always said that, back in Arkansas, Bill was pretty steamed about his famously frisky libido. But when they moved to Washington, D.C., and the fortress-fishbowl that is the White House, she figured, "Hey, how much trouble could he get himself into around here?"

Obviously, Hillary didn't adequately account for the intern pool.

None of this talk will do any damage to



the Clinton legacy, which, given the recent troubles of George W. Bush, is actually looking shinier by the day. If anything, the Monica explanation and the pugnacious dismissal of the impeachment vote will let Clinton recapture lost ground in the war over his place in history. And it'll push the book, "My Life," to the highest heights of the best-seller lists.

The publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, has ordered 1.5 million for the first printing alone.

And here's Bush, book-ended in the news this month by two great communicators — and only one of them still alive.

He's hoping the comparison with John Kerry won't be as harsh.

Me? I'm sitting in awe, wracking my brain for things I should hurry up and apologize for to those I know and I love ...

I have the perfect answer now, an answer I learned from a master of self-made trouble, getting in and getting out.

You know why I did it, whatever it was? "It did just because I could."

Al-Qaida, Saddam linked — in hatred of America

The latest conclusions from the 9/11 commission — that Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden never developed a cozy relationship and that the United States essentially was unprepared for the 2001 attacks — strike me as stunning in only one way: their obviousness.

Saddam and bin Laden were destined, by the very nature of the transnational, revolutionary, ideological forces driving their respective camps, to clash. Even at times when the idea of teaming up against a common enemy such as the United States may have tempted them, the odds likely that any long-term, meaningful, trusting cooperation bond would have emerged.

Saddam had set his sights on leading the Arab world, inspired partly by his Baath Party's vision of cultural unity and partly by his ego — a path that led to invading Kuwait in 1990. Some analysts have argued that Saddam, after failing to anticipate the overwhelmingly negative global response to Kuwait's subjugation, accepted and even relished the impending battle with the U.S.-led coalition — despite the prospect of certain defeat.

Perhaps Saddam hoped to follow in the footsteps of one of his heroes, former President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, who elevated his own stature in the Arab world by confronting Israel. Even in the advent of defeat, Saddam stood a chance of reaching mythical status among the battered and dispossessed of the region. Indeed, despite the war's disastrous results for Iraq, Saddam's star steadily rose during the 1990s, as he continued to defy

the United States and its allies.

Thus Saddam had no need for a strategic alliance with al-Qaida or any other organization that might seriously have competed for influence. It is no secret that bin Laden and his cohorts aspire to extend their control over the Middle East, North Africa and parts of Europe and Central Asia. That result would represent merely the beginning of al-Qaida's insidious plot to undermine the concept of civilization that most people embrace.

Saddam also knew that bin Laden despised everything about him. He probably had about as much faith in al-Qaida's overtures as European countries had recently when they rejected bin Laden's purported proposal of a trade — a moratorium on attacks in Europe if the nations of that region would withdraw from their military operations in the Middle East.

At the same time, it makes sense that Sad-

dam's minions would have interacted with their al-Qaida counterparts. Saddam's regime maintained contact with a number of terrorist groups — and provided assistance and safe haven to some of them — to advance his broad objective of disrupting adversaries ...

Of course, al-Qaida succeeded in harming the United States in ways that Saddam had only imagined. Consequently, the group's attractiveness increased to some of the same frustrated and dispossessed people that Saddam once courted.

Before the U.S.-led intervention in Iraq, al-Qaida saw the value and seized the opportunity of dispatching operatives to Iraq.

More joined them in the confusion of the conflict and its aftermath, and Iraq quickly became a center in the war against terrorism — a position it did not previously hold.

That development, combined with the fierce resistance of Saddam loyalists and oth-

ers opposed to the intervention, has founded U.S. officials. And they struggle for new strategies to deal with the rapidly changing realities, just as they did on Sept. 11.

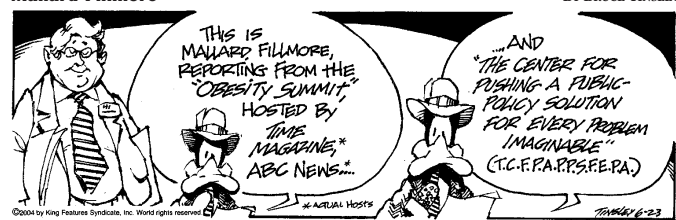
That the nation's leaders appeared to operate in a fog after the 9/11 attacks stemmed as much from the lack of historical preparedness against terrorism as it did from shock, confusion, poor communication and uneven coordination. ... From the beginning of the current wave of global terrorism, which dates from the 1970s, one U.S. president after another failed to mount a coordinated, sustained, hard-hitting, global campaign of diplomatic, economic, clandestine and military initiatives against terrorists ... Those who believe that the Bush administration has exaggerated the war against terrorism delude themselves. The threat is frighteningly and dangerously real, from the battle grounds of Iraq to the streets of America.

John C. Bersia is an Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel columnist.

John C. Bersia



Mallard Fillmore



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

...AND
"THE CENTER FOR
PUSHING A PUBLIC-
POLICY SOLUTION
FOR EVERY PROBLEM
IMAGINABLE"
(CFC-F.P.A.P.P.S.F.E.P.A.)

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THURSDAY 6-23

Marshmallow fine

FL MIAMI — A teacher's aide who forgot to put away her marshmallows and hot chocolate at Yellowstone National Park last year was taken from her cruise ship cabin in handcuffs and hauled before a judge, accused of failing to pay the year-old fine.

Hope Clarke, 32, crying and in leg shackles, told the judge she was rousted at 6:30 a.m. by federal agents after the ship returned to Miami from Mexico. She insisted that she had paid the \$50 fine before she left Yellowstone, which has strict rules about food storage to prevent wildlife from eating human food.

U.S. Magistrate Judge John O'Sullivan, who had a copy of a citation indicating the fine had been paid, apologized to Clarke, who spent nearly nine hours in detention, and demanded that the U.S. attorney's office determine what went wrong.

Students to pay for prank

MA METHUEN — Ten students who broke into Methuen High School, released hundreds of crickets and scattered some dead fish can avoid criminal charges by apologizing, paying for the cleanup and working for the School Department.

Under an agreement approved by police, the students agreed to send letters to the principal, perform community service for the School Department and pay \$300 each.

If completed by Sept. 1, the complaints of trespassing and injury to a school will be dismissed, said First Assistant Court Magistrate Maria Teresa Abascal.

But, at a hearing in Lawrence District Court, Abascal warned that if any one of the 10 does not comply or gets in any further trouble, all 10 will be charged.

In addition to leaving the crickets and fish in the school on May 19, police said the vandals drew lewd images, broke a jar of mayonnaise, scattered desks, discharged a fire extinguisher and urinated on a sign.

They were suspended for 10 days and banned from graduation ceremonies and senior-class activities.

Rescue copter suit

VA ROANOKE — The down-draft from a rescue helicopter forced a Lexington woman to the ground and broke her hip, according to a lawsuit filed on behalf of the woman's estate.

Ruby Graves, who died in 2003 at 84, was leaving Stonewall Jackson Hospital in July 2002 after an outpatient treatment when the helicopter passed overhead and its downdraft knocked her down, according to the lawsuit.

Graves' hip was broken in the fall, said Michael Cleary, the estate's attorney. The suit claims the injury was severe and permanent.

Cleary has named several defendants in the suit.

Protecting woods

NM ALBUQUERQUE — The city filed a condemnation lawsuit to protect 125 wooded

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

acres around the Rio Grande from being developed as an upscale subdivision. City negotiations to buy the land failed May 20. The developer said he'd sell for \$17.5 million, more than four times the city's offer.

Why not to mail cash

TX AMARILLO — A West Texas postal worker has been sentenced to seven months in federal prison for stealing cash from greeting cards.

U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson sentenced Childress postal worker Mickey Wayne King in Amarillo's U.S. District Court on a charge of theft of mail matter by a postal employee.

King, who told inspectors he had been stealing mail for about two or three months, said he used the money to pay medical bills.

He admitted he stole about \$900.

Judge couldn't connect

OR LA GRANDE — A prosecutor was briefly sent to jail along with the man he helped convict of manslaughter after the lawyer refused a judge's order to turn on his cell phone.

Union County District Attorney Martin Birnbaum was released after spending the evening in a La Grande cell about 40 feet away from the man he prosecuted.

Judge Philip Mendiguren tried to reach Birnbaum with a jury question while the lawyer was on his lunch break, Undersheriff Dana Wright said. When Birnbaum returned to court, Mendiguren ordered him to keep his cell phone on. The prosecutor refused, and the judge cited him for contempt.

The prosecutor was to stay in jail through the weekend, but was able to return home just before midnight that Friday because of a state law that allows sheriffs to execute weekend releases early.

Mayor's safety is costly

DC WASHINGTON — Police protecting Mayor Anthony A. Williams when he travels have charged more than \$320,000 in expenses on government-issued credit cards, including bills for a Hawaii beachfront hotel, a Las Vegas nightclub and a posh New York City restaurant, it was reported.

Tony Bullock, spokesman for the mayor, said Williams' travels had helped bring business, jobs and investment to the nation's capital and that out-of-town security for the mayor was necessary.

"I don't think anyone would be grudge the costs of keeping the mayor safe," he said. "You don't send a sitting mayor into a strange city without security. It's not safe."

Out of the competition

NY COLONIE — A state trooper shot himself in the thigh and foot at a firing range in suburban Albany as he holstered his semiautomatic handgun, according to authorities.

Sgt. Jeffrey Carmichael, a training officer at the State Police Academy and 18-year veteran, was hurt during a shooting competition at the state's annual Police and Fire Games.

The weeklong event has more than 1,000 competitors from police and fire departments across the state.

State Police Lt. Glenn Miner said a routine investigation is being conducted, and a gun malfunction hasn't been ruled out.

Carmichael was taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital with the bullet still lodged in his foot.

Prison rap video

GA ATLANTA — A best-selling rapper filmed an unauthorized video at the Fulton County jail while out on work release from another jail, embarrassed county officials said.

Part of a video was shot for rapper Clifford Harris, whose stage name is T.I., authorities said.

Harris was serving jail time in neighboring Cobb County on a probation violation when he received permission to leave the jail to make the tape at the Fulton jail, Cobb County Chief Deputy Sheriff Lynda Coker said.

A spokesman for Fulton County Sheriff Jackie Barrett said she had no idea a rap video was being filmed inside the 3,200-inmate jail. Deputy apparently allowed "four or five" men up to the seventh floor with a hand-held camcorder, Barrett said. Barrett said the deputies would be disciplined.



A splash of fun

Sarah Gordon-Macey, 2, splashes under the water rainbow in the Living Memorial Park water park in Brattleboro, Vt.



And the race is on

Driver Peter Hersey of Duxbury, Mass., foreground, and Bill Secrest of South Shore, Ky., drive a 1934 Ford Indy Race car through a thunderstorm on Interstate 10, between Jacksonville, Fla., and Tallahassee, Fla., in the first stage of the 2004 Great Race, a transcontinental rally race that began in Jacksonville and will conclude in Monterey, Calif., on July 4.



Jumping in to summer

From left, 10-year-olds Jacob Bagwell, Kimberly Aguillard, Kendra Hinnenkamp and Avery Chase, hustle for the finish at the blast from the Past Summer History Camp at the West Baton Rouge Museum in Port Allen, La. Campers enjoyed several activities on the last day of camp.



Great birthday gift

Emma Grady of Phoenix celebrates her 100th birthday by throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at the Arizona Diamondbacks-Tampa Bay Devil Rays game at Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix. Grady's son, Jim Grady, is at right.



Playing it cool Tori Shapiro, 43, of Ocala, Fla., gives her horse Lacey a cooling rinse at the James B. Hunt Horse Complex at the North Carolina state fairgrounds in Raleigh. They are attending the North Carolina Quarterhorse Youth Association Show.



Silver lining to every cloud The El Paso County Courthouse reflects sun and blue sky as a dark rain cloud blows over El Paso, Texas.



All in the family Cousins, from left, Karlee Cahoon, 12, Mailei Jarman, 9, and Cassidy Jarman, 11, zoom across Echo Lake in Bigfork, Mont. The children were visiting the area for the weekend with 39 of their relatives to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of their grandparents. The family is scattered throughout the northwest but has been vacationing in Montana for more than 30 years.

Maternity center needed

VA KILMARNOCK — A group of doctors and nurses wants a new birthing center to replace the region's only obstetrical unit, closed last year because of rising liability insurance. Family Maternity Center of the Northern Neck, Inc., has until July 1 to file a certificate of public need with the state Department of Health for the proposed nonprofit facility.

Compensation sought

IA IOWA CITY — Hundreds of former nuclear weapons plant workers sickened from radiation are petitioning the government for easier access to benefit programs. The petition is designed to circumvent stalled investigations in many of the 1,041 claims filed by former workers at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown. The complex made, tested and disassembled nuclear weapons from 1948 to 1975.

High-octane opening

KY HOPKINSVILLE — The Commonwealth Agri-Energy ethanol plant celebrated its grand opening. The farmer-owned company plans to convert more than 7 million bushels of corn into 20 million gallons of ethanol each year. The demand comes from cities where gasoline must be blended with oxygenate additives such as ethanol to curb emissions.

Good uses for fat ties

OH ORRVILLE — Fat and skinny, striped or plaid — Trinity United Methodist Church actually wanted neckties for Father's Day. "We have ties that should have never been sold, much less worn," said Sharon Kowaleski, whose husband, David, pastors the church 21 miles west of Canton. More than 500 ties were collected and at least 400 were stitched together to make altar cloths for Father's Day.

Kowaleski and church member Diane Painting cut the ties and sewed them to quilt backing, a material strong enough to bear the weight of the ties without tearing. The cloths are reinforced with dowels.

"Once we got the idea of what we wanted to do, the hardest part was starting out the color scheme," Painting said.

Zoo sets mood for gorilla

LA NEW ORLEANS — A gorilla sex video is getting regular play here. It's not the sort found easily on the Internet, but officials at the Audubon Zoo are hoping it'll inspire one of their gorillas into action.

Casey, 21, came to New Orleans two years ago on permanent loan from the Como Zoo in St. Paul, Minn.

The hope was that he would impregnate one or all of the Audubon Zoo's three female lowland gorillas — Binti and Fanya, both 28, and Binti's 8-year-old daughter, Praline.

Maloney got a tape of copulating gorillas from a camera used to monitor another zoo's gorilla area. It's played in the indoor cage where Casey spends his nights.

"He doesn't seem that interested

at this point, but he likes watching television so he does watch it," Maloney said.

"Hopefully, he'll get some inspiration."

Jail: A family affair

TN McMINNVILLE — Lance E. Champion, 23, landed his entire family in jail.

He reportedly pulled in behind Deputy Lt. Stan Hillis across from the local jail and told Hillis he had violated the speed limit. By the end of their conversation, Champion was in custody charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and evading arrest.

Champion called his mother, Janice K. Champion, 48, who arrived with her 17-year-old son. The teen allegedly slapped the hand of a deputy who was gesturing for them to leave the area as Lance Champion's vehicle was about to be towed.

Janice Champion was then taken into custody, charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Officers say she was loud and refused to obey orders.

Her husband Hal Champion, 47, then arrived from church, was shot with a deputy's Taser and taken into custody on similar charges.

All were freed on bond. "This is a fine upstanding family," said the Champions' attorney Michael Golligan. "These deputies acted in a harmful and inappropriate manner. We feel their actions violated the law."

Sheriff Jackie Matheny is backing his men.

Taxi drivers seeing red

MA BOSTON — Boston taxi drivers are angry over a city proposal that they accept flat-fee \$10 vouchers from delegates attending the Democratic National Convention. Drivers say the vouchers, combined with convention traffic and road closings, could mean they lose money going to and from Logan International Airport. Cab drivers and city officials were set to meet to discuss the proposal.

Accident with elk deadly

WA NORTH BEND — The guest of honor at a family Father's Day party was killed along with his wife and two relatives when their car hit an elk.

A fifth relative was critically injured after Jesus P. Reyna swerved to avoid hitting one elk but hit another on Interstate 90 about 40 miles east of Seattle, Lt. Colleen McIntyre said.

"The elk basically took the whole front end of the car and the windshield and incapacitated the driver," McIntyre said.

The car then tumbled over a 60-foot embankment and landed upside down on a road below the freeway.

Killed were Reyna, 26, his wife, Josefina Alvarez, described by relatives as in her early 20s; his uncle, Rafael S. Gonzalez, 42, and Gonzalez's son, Enrique Gonzalez-Reyna, 19, all of Malbon.

Leonardo Gonzalez-Reyna, 20, another son of Gonzalez, was thrown from the car and listed in serious condition.

Only Reyna and his wife were wearing seat belts, investigators said.

The elk was killed.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY

Use debit cards cautiously

BY JEREMY KIRK

Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — As Community Bank customers receive their new debit cards, consumer advocates warn that the increased convenience comes with increased risks.

If someone takes your card and manages to get in your account, federal law limits financial liability. But if you voluntarily give your personal identification number to someone, that individual could legally be considered your agent, opening you up for greater financial liability, bank officials said.

But that's an extreme case. Debit cards, however, do expose consumers to a higher level of liability than regular credit cards. Liability rules were included in a pamphlet sent with the Community Bank debit cards:

■ If you inform Community Bank within two days of a loss or theft, you are liable for no more than \$50.

■ If you do not inform the bank, and the bank can show that they could have stopped someone from using the card without your permission, you can lose up to \$500.

■ If transfers appear on a statement that you did not authorize, the bank should inform you immediately. If written notice is not received within 60 days after the statement was mailed, you may not get back any of the money you lost after that 60-day period.

According to Public Interest Research Groups, a consumer watchdog that tracks banking issues, many banks have pledged to limit liability to \$50 or less. Massachusetts has a law for this limit, but other states may not.

There is no charge for replacing a lost card, said Gregory Morgan, Community Bank's public theater manager. Similar to other banks, a \$1.50 fee will be charged if the debit card is used at an ATM other than Community Bank's. But there are limits on daily account activity using a debit card.

When cards are used without inputting a PIN, it is called an offline transaction. For the Community Bank Visa debit card, the daily limit for offline transactions is \$309, which may be a combination of ATM withdrawals — one that is currently not functioning but allowing withdrawals on foot — or purchases, Morgan said.

So, it's possible to go to the post office with a debit card and check the credit button and the sign for the transaction. Even though it is not a credit card, the transaction will become an offline debit transaction.

For banks, that type of transaction is the most profitable, according to Public Interest Research Groups. Banks receive a percentage of up to 2 percent of every offline transaction amount. For PIN-based online transactions, banks get a flat fee between 7.5 to 10 cents, according to the group's Web site.

For online transactions — those requiring a PIN — the daily limit is \$2009, with purchases limited to \$1,500 and automated teller machine withdrawals limited to \$509, according to the Community Bank Web site.

Consumers can use the cards on the Internet or off-line in the countries where they live as long as Visa is accepted, Morgan said. The bank that handles the particular merchant's transactions will determine the exchange rate, he said.

Though it may sound like common sense, here's an additional reminder: Don't give out the pin number for the new Community Bank check card you receive in the mail.

While check cards — also known as debit cards — are generally more secure than credit cards because a PIN usually must be inputted when a purchase is made, it's just as risky if someone else knows your number, Morgan said.

"The PIN number should never leave their lips — even to a friend," Morgan said.

Don't write the pin on the back of the card, either, he said.

Consumers throughout South Korea, Japan and Okinawa have started receiving their check cards courtesy of Community Bank. The Defense Department recently renegotiated its contract with Bank of America, and part of that contract includes providing for debit cards and other features such as online banking.

E-mail: jeremy.kirk at kirkj@strips.com or dm1

Sending e-mail straight to trash

Q. For 18 months I have e-mailed the White House. My question is this: If they don't like what you are saying, can they block you from sending e-mail to the White House? — Mel Pohl, Tamara, Fla.

A. Just about everybody in business (and politics is business, too, Mr. P.) eventually encounters some customer, consultant and/or critic whose e-mails become bothersome, and, just as you suspect, there are ways of cutting off unwelcome messages.

I lack the kind of security clearances that would let me know whether the government can stop citizens from sending e-mail to the White House, but it's possible to route all incoming messages from a pesky voter directly into the trash bin.

If I decided your notes were cutting too close to the bone, I could create what is called a rule to order software like Microsoft Outlook or Outlook Express to deep-six every incoming message from anybody named Mel Pohl.

I could even order the software to reject all incoming notes from the Internet service provider that you use.

The White House, for example, could set up Outlook to monitor all incoming mail and send to the trash can everything sent to addresses ending in JohnKerry.org. The rules can even be drafted so that any given keywords such as "disagree with" anywhere in the message text will be enough to deep-six a message.

There is much more than ideology at stake here. It is not uncommon for an unhappy customer (or reader) to mail bomb somebody by sending them large numbers of messages that clutter their mailbox and thereby get attention.

Here's how to censor such stuff: In Outlook, click on Tools and then select Rules and Alerts.

Outlook Express uses a Message Rules checklist instead. Elsewhere, very few of the wizards that will let you create a wide variety of commands that select e-mail by sender name, keywords, etc., and then take action like moving targeted notes to a specified folder.

These rules can be a godsend for harried e-mail users because they can be set to do things like automatically send all messages from valued customers or family members to a special folder, thus ensuring that important stuff never gets lost in a morass of spam.

Q. Hi, Jim. I work in Excel spreadsheets a lot. Is there a shortcut to changing the direction of the next cell where data is entered?

Sometimes I need to move laterally across the page and other times down for tabulating numbers.

Could the command be programmed into a function key maybe? — Michele Spader at garden.wa

A. Hi yourself, Michele. I don't work with spreadsheets because those in charge at the job and at home don't let me anywhere near the money, but I do play around with them a lot.

That's a worthy way to say your answer is simplicity itself. To move the cursor in Excel one cell to the right just hit the Tab key. To make it drop down to the cell below, use the Enter key. To back up from right to left, or from below to above, just hold down the Shift key while tapping Tab or Enter.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at: coates@tribune.com or via mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at: www.chicagotribune.com/askjim



Jim Coates

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week	High	Low	Name	YTD % Chg
10,753.51	8,917.20	10,753.51	Dow Jones Industrial	+1.1
3,099.87	2,352.87	3,099.87	Dow Jones Transportation	+1.1
283.12	225.46	283.12	Dow Jones Utilities	+1.1
6,798.12	5,483.77	6,798.12	NYSE Composite	+1.1
1,278.81	938.73	1,278.81	Amex Index	+1.1
1,153.83	1,596.25	1,153.83	Nasdaq Composite	+1.1
1,163.23	969.84	1,163.23	S&P 500	+1.1
145.86	471.98	145.86	S&P MidCap	+1.1
582.46	437.20	582.46	Russell 2000	+1.1
11,371.14	9,272.46	11,371.14	DJ Wilshire 5000	+1.1

AMEX				
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol	Open	High	Low
Northern	389,010	4.54	+0.01	+0.01
Lucas	208,842	1.12	+0.01	+0.01
Greif Bros	178,520	0.40	+0.01	+0.01
General	178,520	0.40	+0.01	+0.01
MetLife	169,564	17.54	+0.01	+0.01
Amgen	139,811	14.00	+0.01	+0.01
Tektronix	124,000	21.50	+0.01	+0.01
Boeing	104,724	104.00	+0.01	+0.01
Wal-Mart	98,610	29.75	+0.01	+0.01
Exxon	98,610	44.75	+0.01	+0.01

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	High	Low	YTD % Chg	YTD % Chg
Airbus	125.00	125.00	+1.1	+1.1
Northrop	34.47	34.47	+1.1	+1.1
Boeing	104.00	104.00	+1.1	+1.1
General Dynamics	14.40	14.40	+1.1	+1.1
Lockheed Martin	144.00	144.00	+1.1	+1.1
Raytheon	144.00	144.00	+1.1	+1.1
Boeing	104.00	104.00	+1.1	+1.1
Lockheed Martin	144.00	144.00	+1.1	+1.1
Boeing	104.00	104.00	+1.1	+1.1
Lockheed Martin	144.00	144.00	+1.1	+1.1
Boeing	104.00	104.00	+1.1	+1.1
Lockheed Martin	144.00	144.00	+1.1	+1.1
Boeing	104.00	104.00	+1.1	+1.1
Lockheed Martin	144.00	144.00	+1.1	+1.1

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	High	Low	YTD % Chg	YTD % Chg
Fidelity Investor	36.18	36.18	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1
Fidelity Divd Growth	59.52	59.52	+1.1	+1.1

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		\$-2417
British pound		-\$1.88
S. Korean won (June 23)		1,128.00
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)		0.3777
British pound		-\$1.88
Canada (Dollar)		1.3592
Denmark (Krone)		6.1428
France (Euro)		0.6555
Hong Kong (Dollar)		-\$1.2102
Hungary (Forint)		210.79
India (Rupee)		47.83
Israel (Shekel)		4.4944
Japan (Yen)		109.69
Kuwait (Dinar)		0.2947
Malaysia (Ringgit)		0.6664
Philippines (Peso)		56.24
Singapore (Dollar)		1.7171
S. Korea (Won)		1,128.00
Switzerland (Franc)		0.6555
Thailand (Baht)		48.925
Turkey (Lira)		1,625.27

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance or to U.S. citizens in South Korea, Germany, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Non-military exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany) check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference only. All figures are foreign currency exchange rates. The British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close		\$-996.50
Gold		
Silver		
Palladium		
Platinum		
Gold		
Silver		
Palladium		
Platinum		
Gold		
Silver		
Palladium		
Platinum		
Gold		
Silver		
Palladium		
Platinum		

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

Sensitivity Money tip of the day

Appraising jewelry

CRS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Before you bought a used car, you'd have it checked out by a mechanic. So, too, when you buy valuable jewelry, you should get it appraised first.

Appraisals should include: the estimated replacement value of the jewelry, a description of all characteristics of the piece, a list of gem treatments (that is,

the use of oil, heat or other things to enhance the gem's appearance), a photograph of the gem, classification of the gem as natural or synthetic and the manufacturer and karatage of the mounting.

You might print out a copy of the ACORD 78, an insurance-industry standard form for jewelry appraisals.

You can get it from www.jewers.com.

FACES 'N' PLACES

Terminally linked



DREAMWORKS PICTURES/KRT

Tom Hanks stars in "The Terminal," the third feature film that pairs the veteran actor and director Steven Spielberg. The first movie they made together was "Saving Private Ryan."

Hanks, Spielberg reunite to produce 'serious comedy'

BY TERRY LAWSON

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Tom Hanks had this problem. Having felt, he says, incredibly grateful that Steven Spielberg had given him a chance to do the sort of part he never imagined getting, Hanks spent the weekend following the first days of shooting "Saving Private Ryan" in Cork County, Ireland, dreading a confrontation he knew he had to have.

"This movie was really a big deal for me," says Hanks. "I had been pinching myself because I couldn't believe I was doing it. And then we start working, and I see that the 2½ pages of dialogue I had to shoot for the next scene were just bad, idiotic. And I knew I was going to have to talk to Steven about it. ... So I got to the set, and I'm ... fretting about this, and Steven comes in and says: 'Tom, that dialogue in the next scene is just unfixable, so I'm just going to take it out.' And you know, that's all I thought. You did it, and this was really the worst work out of."

The collaboration that began with "Saving Private Ryan" continues with the third feature film starring Tom Hanks and directed by Steven Spielberg. "The Terminal" was loosely inspired by the true story of an Iranian refugee who has been living in Charles de Gaulle International Airport

in France since 1988, having arrived there with no passport. (He has since proved his political refugee status, but chooses to remain in the airport.)

"We talk about various projects a lot, pass things to each other," says Spielberg. "But we seem to know which ones will be right. 'Catch Me If You Can' we sort of knew from the start would be right. Tom was on this one before me, but when I got a look at a rewrite by Jeff Nathanson, I got excited enough to want to do it together."

Hanks had already signed on to "The Terminal," in which he plays Viktor Navorski, a citizen of a fictional Balkan state called Krakozhia. At almost the exact moment Viktor is going through customs at an unidentified New York City airport, a military coup in his country renders his passport invalid.

That leaves him unable to enter the United States or to return to Krakozhia, and Viktor's problem is exacerbated by an ambitious customs official (Stanley Tucci) who does his best to be unhelpful.

"Stanley is ostensibly the villain, but he's not really evil," says Spielberg. "The tone

was everything in this, because we're telling a simple story. But we're hoping to make a point or two without being too obvious."

To Spielberg, the point was the way the United States appears to be moving away from being the great melting pot toward "tribalization."

"Tom and I are on the same wavelength. We make movies together for the same reason we became pals."

Steven Spielberg
Director of "The Terminal"

same thing. Waiting, worrying, wondering what's going to happen next."

As part of their research, Hanks and Spielberg spent a day with customs and immigration officials at Los Angeles International Airport, where they were taken to what is called, without irony, says Spielberg, "the secondary room."

"It's where people who have problems with their papers or status, or who have simply tried to innocently bring fruit or something prohibited in the country, go to wait and wait some more," says Hanks.

"These aren't people suspected of being terrorists; they're just people who don't understand the rules or are caught in some bureaucratic snafu. Man, if you ever have to use a visa to see some really sad faces, that's where you want to go."

Neither Hanks nor Spielberg wanted to make a movie full of sad faces. Their "Terminal" is a place where an angry Indian immigrant (Kumar Pallana) or a sad stewardess from Nebraska (Catherine Zeta-Jones) can, with help from people very unlike them, rediscover the best parts of themselves. It's where a shy Mexican food service worker (Diego Luna) can find the courage to declare his affection for the suspicious African-American immigration clerk (Zoe Saldana), who daily stamps "rejected" on an ever-hopeful Viktor's visa application.

"It was more comedy than I've ever done before," says Spielberg, "but we've been calling it serious comedy ... I've definitely been lightening up after 'Ryan' and 'Schindler's List,' and that's a conscious thing."

"Tom and I are on the same wavelength. We make movies together for the same reason we became pals. I think. We both came from broken homes, so we tend to put a high value on families and being with our families. The things that make him smile make me smile, and we have a lot of the same interests — and that gets reflected in the movies."

'Kill Bill' sequel in works

Quentin Tarantino said Monday he plans to shoot a third part of the "Kill Bill" vengeance series.

Tarantino said part three would focus on the daughter of a hired killer that Uma Thurman's character bumps off early in her revenge spree.

Thurman plays The Bride, who goes after her former lover and boss, Bill, after he kills her fiancé on the wedding day and leaves her in a coma.

Moore says he's not unpatriotic

Michael Moore's new movie, "Fahrenheit 9/11" has



Tarantino

raised temperatures in Republican circles — and that's intentional. "I would like to see Mr. Bush removed from the White House," the filmmaker told the host of ABC News' "This Week with George Stephanopoulos."

Moore bristled at the notion he is being unpatriotic. Everything I do is about trying to make this a better country."

Houston to rock Asia

Whitney Houston will make her debut concert appearance in China with a July 22 show in Shanghai.

Houston, 40, is widely known in Asia for her rendition of "I Will Always Love You," from the movie "The Bodyguard." The Grammy winner entered a drug rehabilitation center in March



Houston

but received a lifetime achievement award at the Women's World Awards earlier this month in Germany.

Cancer talk encouraged

Backstreet Boy Kevin Richardson understands that talking about cancers can be an unpleasant subject.

"But if it can save someone's life, it's worth it," said Richardson, who appears in a series of public service announcements that urge children to discuss colon cancer and its treatment with their parents.

Richardson said he feels a responsibility to educate others about the disease that ended his father's life in 1991.



Richardson

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Horoscope

Mars, the planet of aggressive energy, is moving into fire sign Leo. It's high-drama time on the career front — lots of the kind of excitement you see on television shows about a certain line of work.

People rushing around, confrontations, high stakes — you'll find yourself thinking "ER" and "The West Wing" are nothing compared to real life!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(June 23). This brings remarkable changes for you, but you're in control of what happens! This month and next, you finally feel that you're steering your career in the direction of your dream. There's a social swell through August, and you may even decide to travel with friends. A beautiful commitment from a loved one is featured in September. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 25, 1, 11 and 29.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The morning features something to brag about. Don't name-drop though, as it's not at all becoming and could serve to turn off the very person you'd like to impress. Keep a sense of humor about family life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Friends of all ages, genders and locales will enrich you. Make an effort to attract people who are a joy to be near. You need help with a project that is growing to overwhelming proportions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You've got the magic touch, but do be careful how you use it. Don't skip the research part of your project in order to get the high of being in action. You need mentors who can tell you the strengths and weaknesses of your project.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Learning more is what makes you rich.

Financial questions are deftly answered by an expert you know personally, but be wary of advisers you have to pay right now. It's likely their commission dictates their advice.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Everyone has his or her own way of making a difference in the world,

and yours might be to simply be exemplary in relationships. Today's delt handling of people is proof. Some have to work at it, but social grace is natural to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do your own thing this morning, while you're free to do it. It's no picnic to be in charge of as much as you are, but it is fulfilling at the end of the day to know that people can depend on you and you can depend on yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Self-esteem fluctuates, but that's because you care so much that things get done the right way. Remind yourself that you choose your thoughts. Tonight, you are adored, and if you go out, you will be publicly adored.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Great reward requires equal risk. You'll be nervous to try new tasks, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't do it. Analyze the fear, understand it, and then, make a rational, logical decision about what to do next.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You got such a thrill from the beginning stages of a project that it's hard to duplicate the excitement in the middle and end stages. Stick to the plan. Finish! The rewards come at the end. Give yourself a mental pep rally.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Although you like to stay positive, this is one of those days when being ready for the worst outcome makes you confident indeed. At work, take on the bits and pieces of a problem instead of trying to solve the whole thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) It's a psychic day, and you feel you're some kind of a vortex for coincidental happenings. It seems these strange occurrences are only happening to you, but maybe it's because you appreciate their meaning so readily.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Include comedy in the day's events — your body loves laughter, and it's scientifically proven that you could ward off disease and virus by laughing. In love, be the one to initiate and the one to say when enough is enough.

Creators Syndicate

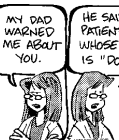
Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



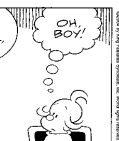
Zits



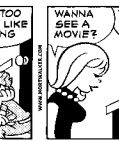
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



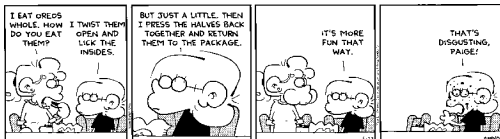
Better or Worse



Peanuts



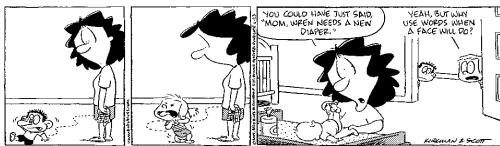
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



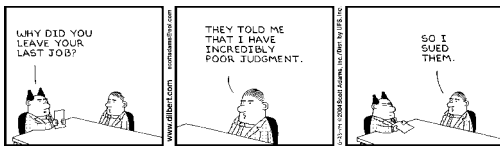
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



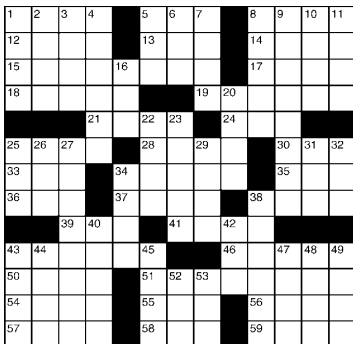
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Cavity

5 Drycleaner dosage

8 Keep — (persist)

12 Concept

13 Work with

14 Carnival attraction

15 Be patient

17 Lothario's look

18 Strike zone's lower boundary

19 Quietened down

21 Methuselah's grandson

24 Trawler gear

25 Leave at the altar

28 Disposition

30 — out (just get by)

33 Big whoop

34 Jargon

35 Fresh

36 Cattle call

37 Stench

38 Advantage

39 Dallas sch.

41 Agts.

43 Speaks sheepishly?

46 Stinging

50 Confrate one

51 Act unstrainedly

54 Masculine side

55 "— was saying, ..."

56 Hold the scepter

57 Unadorned

58 Navigation aid

59 Abound

Down

1 Put on the line

2 Valhalla VIP

3 Apportion

4 Inventor's protection

5 Grooved on

6 Bat wood

7 A March sister

8 Got up

9 Football position

10 Enjoy the hammock

14 Walkie

11 Prepared to drive

16 Equi-

20 Destroy

22 In the thick of

23 Esteem

25 Predicament

26 Altar

27 Bit of unfinished business

29 Shrek, e.g.

31 Frat party item

32 Lamb's dam

34 Lummock

38 Accompany

40 Bart and Lisa's mom

42 Chum

43 — Mawr University

45 Con game

47 Libertine

48 Capri, e.g.

49 Consider

52 Cable sta.

53 Lagniappe

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-23

CRYPTOQUIP

UJSD KUN GZBKNUB IJZK

YP GJNDS, H'A GVNZYXP

INDBHASV HK Z GZVBN-

KN-GZVBN IZXX

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EPITAPH CHIELED INTO A KIND DOG'S GRAVESTONE: "I NEVER MET A MAN I DIDN'T LIKE!"

Today's Cryptoquip Answer: K equals T

One bride per reception, please

Dear Abby: I'm being married in three months, and through pure coincidence it turns out that one of my cousins is being married the same day. We're not close, as she was very competitive with me while we were growing up.

Her wedding will take place in the morning. I'm having an afternoon wedding with an evening reception. I assumed she wouldn't be able to make it to my reception because she'd be exhausted and want to spend time with her new husband.

Well, I just received an e-mail from her saying she wants to attend. Ordinarily, that would thrill me. However, the catch is she says they won't be enough time to change, so she wants to wear her bridal gown to my reception.

I think this is terribly rude. I mean, how long does it take to change? Am I being petty, and if not, what can I say to her?

—Frustrated Bride in Texas

Dear Abby: Although the rules regarding proper attire for wedding guests have become more flexible in recent years, it is still unacceptable for a guest to wear a bridal gown to someone else's reception. Tell your cousin that you will "understand" if she's a few minutes late to your reception, so she can change, and that she and her new husband should quietly seat themselves when they arrive.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I'm 31, divorced and female. My marriage ended four years ago. I haven't dated much since.

When I least expected it, a wonderful man I'll call "Tony" walked into my life. He was everything I wanted and more. He treated me the way I deserved to be treated and seemed to like me a lot. I fell for him hard.

A short time later, he told me he didn't want a serious relationship.

ship. I was crushed but continued to see him. We dated for about two years and there were still no serious feelings on his part. Then, all of a sudden, he hit me with the news that he had fallen in love with someone else. I was floored. He had said he didn't want a serious relationship.

I can't seem to get over him. Every time I try, Tony calls me and wants to hook up. His new girlfriend will be moving here soon from another state, yet he still calls and wants to hook up with me. How can I let go and move on? I still love him.

—Can't Let Go
Dear Abby: Let me explain something. When Tony said he didn't want a serious relationship, he meant with YOU.

Wake up and smell the coffee. You are being used. The sooner you can recognize the fact, the sooner you'll be able to let go and say no.

Letters for this column — with your return address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YARAR

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GOMOR

GAIMBY

NULKIE

www.jumble.com

Answer here: IT WAS

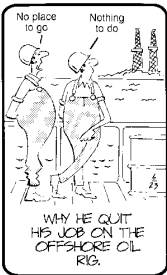
“ ”

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: WHOSE FUROR MEADOW BESTOW

Answer: Easy to experience on a sugar free diet — "SWEET" SORROW



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

“ ”

(Answers tomorrow)

Fiancée's TV timing unromantic

Dear Annie: I met my fiancée, "Donna," nine months ago. We've been engaged for three months and plan to marry in August. Although we are compatible in most ways, there is one thing that disappoints me, and I need an outside opinion.

The night we got engaged was a wonderful evening on board a cruise ship. And I returned to our stateroom, the first thing she did was hop into bed and turn on the TV. I was amazed that she would make such an unromantic move, but I chose not to bring it up and eventually fell asleep.

The next day, I told Donna that I thought watching TV was an unusual way to spend her engagement evening, but she felt it was a big deal. To her credit, she didn't do it again — until now. We spent last weekend at a fancy hotel, and Sunday morning started raining love in bed. Next thing I knew, she turned on the TV. Is this a sign that she has no

Annie's Mailbox



interest in lovemaking? I'm really confused. The problem is serious enough that I plan to discuss it at a pre-marital seminar we have scheduled. Without some solution acceptable to both of us, it may be the end of this engagement.

—Where's the Romance in New Mexico?

Dear N.M.: We think

the pre-marital seminar is an excellent place to discuss this, but here's our take on it: Either Donna is addicted to TV, or more likely, she is avoiding sex at those moments when the pressure to perform is most intense. During these special times, she may feel obligated to make sex memorable or believe you expect sexual "extras." She also may not enjoy sex as much as you do, and it's possible you over-romanticize the moment and have unrealistic expectations.

No matter how delicate, it is best to discuss these issues before marriage.

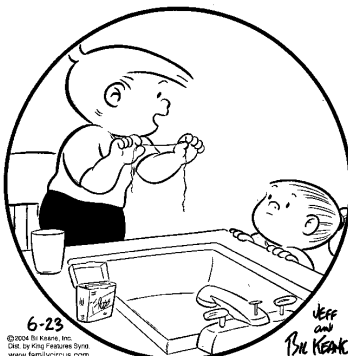
Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter about "Sue," the hard worker whose boss rewarded her by insisting she attend a company dinner. Sue was so unimpressed that she quit. You may be right that Sue has anxiety attacks, but here's my opinion: I, too, cringe at the thought of after-hours gatherings with co-workers. As a wife and mother, my evenings and weekends are full of other obligations. After a long day on the job, I am just plain tired. Even a "reward dinner" is just one more thing to do.

If Sue's employer wants to reward her, how about a bonus or a paid day off?

—Mary in Pennsylvania
Dear Mary: You weren't the only one who said employees appreciate money more than any other "gift" from their employers. Bosses, take note.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Los Angeles Times. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.
Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



6-23
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www.familycircus.com

"Today at the dentist's I took a whole course in FLOSSophy."

GRAFFITI

SOME AFTER DINNER SPEAKERS TALK WITH MORE CLARITY THAN CLARITY

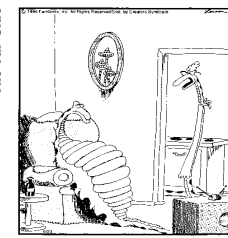
MBA 6/23

Donnis the Menace



"NO WONDER THE KID CRIES SO MUCH... HE HAS TO GO EVERYWHERE WITH HIS MOUTH."

The Far Side



"Joel! You went and ate the pig! I was going to serve this evening to the MacIntyres! ... Well, you just disfigure it—it should still be okay."

Non Sequitur



Not the same old Lefty

Open finish a hiccup, not trend for new Mickelson

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — Phil Mickelson is a changed man, even if the ending looked all too familiar.

The lasting image of the 104th U.S. Open is not the six pressure-packed putts Retief Goosen made down the stretch to win his second major, but Lefty missing two short putts on the 71st hole that cost him a chance to go to Scotland next month chasing the third leg of the Grand Slam.

The first miss from 5 feet knocked him out of the lead. The second miss from 4 feet sealed his fate.

Same of Phil, right? Not anymore. This was merely a hiccup, not a trend.

The biggest difference between Sunday at Shinnecock Hills and Sunday at so many other majors is that no one expected Mickelson to mess it up.

This time, it was shocking.

"I thought it was going to come down to the 18th hole," Goosen said. "I didn't really expect Phil to make a double bogey at 17."

Mickelson's victory in the Masters made this U.S. Open look more like a close call than a blown opportunity.

"I've played what I think is very good golf for me," Mickelson said after his 71 left him two shots behind Goosen. "I feel like I'm doing good things. I feel like my preparation is better. I feel like my swing game is a better fit for this very tough test of golf."

Jack Nicklaus saw it coming late last year in the Presidents Cup, when Mickelson became the first American to lose his first five matches. Lefty kept his spirits up, and worked harder than ever.

Nicklaus had a strong premonition that Lefty would be wearing a green jacket.

He also had a bad feeling watching Mickelson on the 17th green Sunday at Shinnecock Hills, especially after Goosen made a 12-foot birdie on the 16th hole to tie him for the lead.

"Here you are standing on 17, needing to make a putt to save par, and Retief birdies," Nicklaus said after watching the U.S. Open from his home in Florida.

"It made Phil's putt a lot longer," he said. "I've had it happen to me many times. You miss that first one, and suddenly you get frozen over the second. Because of what's going through your mind at the time, it's difficult to prepare yourself for the second putt. It's a shame for Phil, because he played a wonderful U.S. Open."

Nicklaus didn't miss many putts during his record run of 18 professional majors. But he missed his share, which explains why he has 19 runner-up finishes in his major.

Mickelson now has four second-place finishes to go with his Masters victory, a record that now reads like a compliment instead of a failure.

Part of that is because he no longer has to explain why he hasn't won a major.

"As opposed to second this week being a negative, I look at it as a positive," Mickelson said. "Because I played such difficult conditions well and came so close and was able to shoot a good round on a very difficult Sunday."

Mickelson has never broken par in the final round of a U.S. Open, but this ought to count as one.

The final round was so difficult — in part because of the stubborn setup the USGA used to protect its precious par — that 28 players failed to break 80. Among them were Ernie Els, playing in the final group.

The best score in the final round was an even-par 70 by Robert Allenby.

Mickelson and Goosen shot 71 playing in the final two groups with the pressure of winning a major along for the ride.

"Some of the hardest scoring rounds we have in the U.S. Open happened to be the three events that I finished second — in '99, '04 and '02," Mickelson said. "And I think that I take a lot away from that. That tells me I can play under some very adverse and difficult conditions."

"And I'll enter these tournaments now with a lot of confidence."

The next major might be the real test.

Mickelson has never finished in the top 10 at a British Open.

Then again, he's never had so many shots in his bag.

A controlled fade off the tee has helped him keep the ball out of



Phil Mickelson reacts after sinking a birdie putt on 13 during the final round of the U.S. Open Sunday at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club.

the thick grass. An understanding that length isn't everything has kept him from reaching for the driver on every hole.

Mickelson also has worked on his trajectory. He decided on a knockdown shot into the 13th green, which he left some 10 feet below the hole for a birdie that started his run of three birdies in four holes.

More than anything, his confidence is preparation and confidence.

Mickelson is No. 1 on the PGA Tour money list, and with Vijay

Singh starting to stall and Tiger Woods still searching for consistency, Mickelson is the leading candidate for player of the year halfway through the season.

Still, not many will forget that three-putt from 5 feet that kept him from winning his second major. Mickelson said the same thing he did after Bethpage — "It was a fun week" — but the disappointment was obvious.

Nonetheless, Mickelson left Long Island with the same attitude he brought to the U.S. Open. He can't wait for the next major.

Ovechkin confident he'll be No. 1 NHL pick, player

BY DAVE MOLINARI

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Alexander Ovechkin respects Mario Lemieux. Alex. Calls him "the best player in the NHL."

He thinks a lot of Calgary's Jarome Iginla, too. Same with Owen Nolan of Toronto.

But ask Ovechkin if he has a hero in the NHL, and he doesn't mention Lemieux or Iginla or Nolan. Or anyone else, for that matter.

Except himself. "I like myself," Ovechkin said. "I want to be No. 1."

Saturday, barring an almost unthinkable turn of events, he will be.

Regardless of whether Washington holds onto the top choice in the NHL entry draft, which seems likely, or trades it, Ovechkin will be the first player selected.

At that moment, the most highly touted prospect since Mario Lemieux in 1984 — and, say, Eric Lindros slipped into the league unnoticed in 1991 — will officially become part of the NHL. And can begin proving that he's worthy of the hype that's swirled around him for the past few years.

Which, to hear some who have watched

him play in Russia tell it, shouldn't be especially difficult.

"I think he is (as good as he's hyped)," Phoenix scout Ilkka Sinisalo said.

Ovechkin, a 6-foot-2, 212-pound left winger, had 13 goals and 10 assists in 53 games with Dynamo Moscow in the Russian Super League last season. Although he won't turn 19 until Sept. 17, he already has spent three seasons in the Super League, widely regarded as the second-best league in the world.

Ovechkin is a rare offensive talent, and is compared most often to Atlanta winger Ilya Kovalchuk. One striking difference: When Kovalchuk plays defense, it usually is an accident.

For Ovechkin, it's a standard part of his repertoire.

"In his draft year, Kovalchuk only played offense," Sinisalo said. "Ovechkin, right now, he knows how to play both ways."

Ilkka Sinisalo
Phoenix Coyotes scout

For Ovechkin, it's a standard part of his repertoire.

"In his draft year, Kovalchuk only played offense," Sinisalo said. "Ovechkin, right now, he knows how to play both ways."

Mark Kelley, the Penguins' European scout, believes the comparisons to Kovalchuk are somewhat misguided because of some fundamental differences in style.

"Kovalchuk is a dynamic offense play-

er," Kelley said. "Ovechkin plays with more power, and (interacts) differently with his linemates."

"Where Kovalchuk will end up having more breakaways and more spectacular goals, Ovechkin will get more goals from in front of the net and in the slot, with someone draped over him."

"He plays with power. He's a lot like [Jarome] Jagr. Yags always had the really, really strong lower torso. In a lot of the power forwards, the power comes from the lower part of the body."

Coincidentally enough, the Capitals spent a couple of seasons trying to build a championship-caliber team around Jagr, an experiment management finally abandoned this past season. That explains why, if Ovechkin ends up in Washington, the Capitals aren't likely to label him the cornerstone of their rebuilding program.

"We've learned through our recent history," General Manager George McPhee said. "We were a pretty good team three or four years ago, a hard-working team that got to the (1998 Stanley Cup) finals and won a couple of division titles."

"Then, the last few years, we sort of went to the star system with several players, and it doesn't work. So we're going to try to integrate these (soon-to-be-drafted) players as just one player among 20 or 22 guys who have to play as a team."

The catch is, while McPhee wants to resist putting that kind of pressure on him,

Ovechkin craves it. He not only accepts the expectations that go with his reputation, but embraces them.

"If I go to some team, I want to be a leader for that team," he said.

Ovechkin is conversant in English, which he studied in Russia. And even though his formal training in the language ended a couple of years ago — "I stopped learning English because I was busy," he said. "I have games, trips, practice" — he still picks up pieces of it from watching television, mostly sports highlight shows.

If Ovechkin continues to shine in after his NHL career begins, he can expect to see tape of himself on a fairly regular basis. Too many people who know too much about hockey expect great things from Ovechkin for him to be an unabashed flop.

Never mind that McPhee still isn't ready to publicly acknowledge what has been obvious from the instant Washington was the draft lottery in April: That Ovechkin will be drafted into the Capitals' depth chart before the week is over.

"I try to avoid building up one player too much, because we're not going to disclose who we're interested in," McPhee said. "There are some good players at the top of the draft."

"We're lucky to have won the lottery, and have a chance to pick the one we think is the best."

And that one, by almost any measure, is Ovechkin.

Fullerton's Romero throws Miami for loss

Titans get another CWS complete game, end Hurricanes' 13-game win streak

BY ERIC OLSON

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Ricky Romero threw a complete game, and Felipe Garcia went 4-for-4 to lead Cal State Fullerton to a 6-3 victory over Miami in the College World Series on Monday night.

Romero (13-4) allowed nine hits, struck out seven, walked two, and only got into trouble once.

The Titans have gotten complete games in their first two games at the CWS. Jason Windsor pitched a three-hitter in a 2-0 win over South Carolina on Saturday.

"Both of them are as good as anyone out here," Miami coach Jim Morris said. "The secret is getting into their bullpen. Not many people get into their bullpen when those guys are throwing."

In the earlier game Monday, South Carolina eliminated LSU with a 15-4 victory and will face Miami on Tuesday. The loser of that game will be knocked out of the CWS. The winner will play Fullerton on Wednesday.

Cal State Fullerton (44-21) has won seven straight and 29 of 34 games. The Hurricanes (50-12) saw their 13-game winning streak end.

Miami's J.D. Cockroft (9-5) struggled for the second year in a row in the CWS. He lasted only 3 1/3 innings — his shortest outing in 12 starts — and gave up nine hits and five runs. He was hurt by four Miami errors.

In a 13-2 loss to Texas last year, he allowed four hits and ran the bases. His teammates committed five errors in 3 1/3 innings.

The Hurricanes scored twice against Romero in the seventh inning, 5-4.

"I wasn't getting tired in the seventh," Romero said. "My mechanics were off and I got back to staying on top of the ball and



Cal State Fullerton's P.J. Pilittere, center, picks up starting pitcher Ricky Romero, with catcher Kurt Suzuki (3) joining in after Cal State Fullerton beat Miami 6-3 in a College World Series game Monday in Omaha, Neb. The Titans have won seven straight games.

throwing strikes."

In the early game, Kevin Melillo had four hits and was ejected and reinstated after a collision at home plate, leading South Carolina over LSU.

The Gamecocks trailed 3-1 before they scored six runs, four unearned, with two outs in the sixth.

South Carolina had the bases loaded with two outs when Nick Gardiner singled to right off Lane Mestek (7-4). Landon Powell scored easily, but Melillo collided with LSU catcher Matt Luzzia after the

ball bounced under Luzzia's glove.

Umpire Bob Homolka called Melillo safe, but immediately ejected him for not trying to avoid the collision.

South Carolina coach Ray Tanner came out of the dugout to protest, and after the umpiring crew consulted with supervisor Dave Yeast, Homolka's decision was reversed and Melillo was reinstated.

"He really didn't plop through him," Tanner said. "He kind of held up a little bit. Nobody went to the ground. You'd hate to see a player ejected in a game like this."

Jim Paronto, secretary-editor to the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee, said in a statement that Homolka initially believed the collision was caused by a flagrant act by Melillo but it was later determined that it was not.

"I was coming down the line and I could see Landon telling me to get down," Melillo said. "I was kind of looking to see where Luzzia was going to go, where the ball was going to take him, so I could try to take an angle and slide around him."

"The ball led him up the line and we collided a little bit. It was nothing intentional. He understood that."

The intent of the rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid violent collisions whenever possible. "I'd be surprised if it wasn't reviewed," Yeast said.

It was the second CWS game in which the collision rule came into play. Georgia shortstop Justin Holmes was ejected for running into catcher Nick Hundley in the Bulldogs' 8-7 win. Holmes was out on the play.

The Gamecocks went on to score four more runs in the inning, three on throwing errors by the Tigers. South Carolina added six more runs in the eighth inning to seal the victory.

LSU (46-19) was knocked out of the CWS in two games for the second year in a row by South Carolina.

LSU, which had won two of three regular-season meetings between the teams, was dealt its worst loss since being beaten 15-4 by Mississippi State in 2002. It was the Tigers' worst loss in the CWS since Cal State Fullerton beat them 20-6 in 1994.

"We didn't defend the field well for a few innings," LSU coach Smoke Laval said. "We usually avoid the big inning, but this time we didn't and we ended to snowball on us. We just needed a few more timely hits."

The teams combined for a CWS record 33 hits.

Gamecocks starter Aaron Laval (13-4) got the win after scattering 11 hits over 62 1/3 innings.

Family struggles to cope year after Dennehy's murder

BY ANGELA K. BROWN

The Associated Press

The shooting death of Baylor University basketball player Patrick Dennehy a year ago has taken a toll on some of those closest to him.

Dennehy's mother and stepfather have filed for divorce after more than 15 years of marriage. Their problems seemed to escalate after Dennehy's death, said his stepfather, Brian Brabazon. Both continue to grieve for the 6-foot-10 player who dreamed of playing professional basketball.

"It's saddest now. The anger for me has subsided," Brabazon said. "I think about it every day. All I want is the truth to come out, why it happened and what happened."

Dennehy's former teammate, Carlton Dotson, is awaiting an August murder trial, where he faces life in prison if convicted of gunning down his friend in a field of chalk weeds near the Waco campus.

The Baylor men's basketball program has acknowledged

major NCAA infractions and faces self-imposed sanctions, stemming from misdeeds by the coach who has since stepped down. Baylor also plans to implement new recruiting policies, including criminal background checks for student-athlete transfers.

Baylor's president, Robert Sloan, said Monday that the past year was one of the most tragic and difficult for the world's largest Baptist university.

"It's very painful to experience the loss of a student in any circumstance, but especially circumstances like these," Sloan said. "What's important is to take whatever happened and learn from it."

Brian Brabazon knew something was wrong last Father's Day when Dennehy, 21, didn't call their Carson City, Nev., home. The couple's concern grew after they found out his friends and a coach hadn't heard from him in about a week.

The Brabazons reported Dennehy missing June 19, 2003 — seven days after authorities believe he was killed. His car was found

"I wanted Baylor to say they were wrong. They never said, 'We're sorry. We should have done this better.'"

Brian Brabazon

Patrick Dennehy's stepfather

June 25 in a Virginia Beach, Va., parking lot about 160 miles from Dotson's home in Hurlock, Md.

Dennehy's body was not found until late July, a few days after Dotson was arrested. Authorities have refused to discuss a motive or say whether Dotson led them to the body.

Dotson, now 22, remains jailed and is to be evaluated by a defense psychiatrist. His attorneys said they have not decided whether to seek an insanity defense.

After Dennehy disappeared, the men's basketball program

was rocked with revelations of NCAA violations, which led to the August resignations of coach Dave Bliss and athletic director Tom Stanton.

School investigators later discovered that Bliss paid up to \$40,000 in tuition for two students and improperly solicited \$87,000 from Baylor boosters. The probe also revealed that staff members did not properly report some players' failed drug tests.

The infractions led to self-imposed sanctions, including reduced scholarships, an extra year of probation and reduced contact between coaches and recruits. The school also banned itself from postseason play this season.

Baylor also faced a wrongful-death lawsuit by Patrick Dennehy Sr., who had little contact with his son until a few years ago. But the judge threw out the case in February, saying the school never had have predicted the athlete's death.

Then last month, Valerie Brabazon, Dennehy's mother, reached an undisclosed settlement with Baylor after agreeing not to sue.

But Brian Brabazon, who raised Dennehy since he was a child, believes Baylor should have done more to protect his stepson.

"Originally, I wanted to bring Baylor to court to sue them," Brabazon said. "I'm not a greedy person; I wanted Baylor to say they were wrong. They never said, 'We're sorry. We should have done this better.'"

Dennehy's stepfather said the family, especially Dennehy's teenage sister, continues struggling to recover from the death.

About every six weeks, Brabazon drives five hours to Dennehy's grave in San Jose, Calif., even if he can only stay for 20 minutes before driving back home. He said Dennehy's mother goes about once a month.

Brabazon said whatever prison sentence is meted out in Dennehy's death would be enough because prisoners have rights.

"When we go back to San Jose, Patrick isn't coming out to give us a hug or take us to see one of his paintings through a glass window," he said. "... No punishment in the world will make up for what happened."

Sex history of Bryant accuser debated

BY JON SANCHEZ
The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — NBA star Kobe Bryant returned to court Tuesday for the conclusion of a closed-door hearing on whether the sexual history of the woman accusing him of rape can be used against her at trial.

Several forensic experts were at the courthouse, including Henry Lee and Michael Baden for the prosecution. Both men participated in the O.J. Simpson case.

The defense wants to introduce evidence it says will show the woman had multiple sexual partners during the week of her encounter with Bryant at a Vail-area resort.

It has suggested she had a scheme to attract attention from an ex-boyfriend and injuries found on her during a hospital exam could have been caused by sex with someone other than Bryant.

Prosecutors say the woman's sex life is irrelevant in determining whether she was assaulted. They have asked the judge to uphold Colorado's "rape shield" law, which generally bars the sexual history of alleged victims from being introduced as evidence.

State District Judge Terry Ruckriegel has indicated he wants to wrap arguments on the issue Tuesday. It will be up to him whether the sexual history can be admitted at trial.

Bryant, 25, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault, saying he had consensual sex with the then-19-year-old woman in his hotel room last summer. If convicted, the Los Angeles Lakers star faces four years in life in prison, 20 years to life on probation and a fine of up to \$750,000.

Besides in the case they could be ready for trial by late August. The judge has not set a trial date.

According to court filings, attorneys plan to use Baden to discuss injuries found on the woman. The defense is trying to bar his testimony, but details of the request are sealed.

Lee, a well-known expert in forensics, is expected to be called by prosecutors to counter the conclusions of a defense expert, Elizabeth Johnson, who runs a forensic practice in California.



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Bobcats move up to No. 2 in draft

Charlotte eyes either Howard or Okafor

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — No matter how many stiffs the Charlotte Bobcats take in the NBA expansion draft, at least they know they are getting either Dwight Howard or Emeka Okafor or later this week.

The Bobcats made their first trade Monday, swapping picks with the Los Angeles Clippers to get the No. 2 overall choice and the chance to make either Howard or Okafor the cornerstone of their franchise.

The Bobcats have made no secret of their desire to obtain Okafor or Howard as one of the main building blocks for the league's 30th franchise.

Both were expected in Charlotte for workouts on Tuesday.

"We would be pleased starting our basketball team with either one of those young men," Bobcats coach and general manager Bernie Bickerstaff said. "They represent what we would like to become in terms of character, competitiveness and talent."

They gave Los Angeles the No. 4 overall pick and their second-round pick (33rd). The Clippers are expected to choose Peoria prep star Shaun Livingston with the fourth overall pick, believing the Chicago Bulls will pass on him at No. 3 because they would not want to use their lottery pick on a point guard for a third consecutive year.

"We will get the player we want with the fourth pick, and it improves our salary cap flexibility with regard to potential free agents," Los Angeles General Manager Elgin Baylor said. "We didn't say who we'd pick. We won't disclose that until draft day."

Charlotte also agreed to select Los Angeles center Predrag Drobnjak in the expansion draft.

Do we know much about Drobnjak? That could be a common theme with most of Charlotte's expansion picks.

The Bobcats have led everyone to believe they'll pass on big names and big contracts in the expansion draft, but disinformation is part of the game at this time of the year.

So is making deals, and coach-general manager Bernie Bickerstaff has been burning up the phone lines trying to create several scenarios for the Bobcats.

In one deal close to being finalized, Charlotte would acquire center Jahidi White, cash and a future draft pick from Phoenix — a deal that would give the Suns enough salary cap



THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/AP

Charlotte Bobcats vice president Ed Tapscott, left, and coach and general manager Bernie Bickerstaff hosted projected pick Dwight Howard and Emeka Okafor for workouts on Tuesday.

flexibility to make a run at free agents Kobe Bryant or Steve Nash.

But Charlotte could also force itself smack into the middle of other deals across the league. One rumored trade has Orlando sending Tracy McGrady to Houston for Steve Francis, but the deal is reportedly contingent on certain players not being picked in the expansion draft.

The Bobcats can muddy the waters by threatening to select some of those players and force Orlando and Houston to work with Charlotte to make the McGrady-Francis trade work.

"We're good listeners and good facilitators," Bickerstaff said. "We wouldn't try to do anything vindictive, but if it's something we can derive benefit from ..."

Charlotte can also wreak havoc by selecting restricted free agents. Once picked, they automatically become unrestricted and are able to sign with any team except the one they left.

The Bobcats have to select at least 14 players Tuesday, but only one per team. Bickerstaff has said he expects as few as five appearing on the opening day roster.

Still, there's enough unprotected talent available Tuesday for Charlotte to field a team probably capable of making a run at the Eastern Conference playoffs next season. But Bickerstaff insists he wants to take a long-range approach and has hinted he'll pass on the likes of Jerry Stackhouse, Antoine Walker, Eddie Jones and Brian Grant.

"We're looking for young players who need an opportunity to play, to get minutes," he said. "Players who've got skills, athleticism, and talent, but need opportunity."

So will anyone even recognize the players Bickerstaff does select? "Basketball fans will," he said.

Among the unprotected players the Bobcats are believed interested in are Sacramento's Gerald Wallace and Jason Kapono of Cleveland.

Trade: Rockets could boast McGrady-Ming duo

TRADE, FROM BACK PAGE

Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak said he expects to hear from O'Neal's representatives in the coming days to see whether O'Neal was sincere in his comments last week demanding a trade.

"Me and the Big Bella are trying to get to Dallas together now," McGrady told Florida Today.

"I do expect to meet with or speak to Shaquille's representatives in timely fashion. We've had three or four days now for everybody to wind down now, calm down a little bit. I'll get a better feel of where we stand at that time," Kupchak said. "I'm eager to hear what they have to say, and we'll take it from there."

If the Lakers are serious about trading O'Neal, the Mavericks could be an ideal trading partner.

Dallas owner Mark Cuban said he had spoken to the Lakers yet.

"Will we? Most likely," he said. "But, you know, we also have to ascertain what's real and what's not real."

Dallas has one of the league's most talent-laden rosters, including several players whose combined salaries would be within the league-mandated 15 percent of O'Neal's \$27 million salary for next season.

The hangup would be deciding the players involved. The Lakers would start by asking for Dirk

Nowitzki. The Mavericks would be more willing to package Antoine Walker, Antawn Jamison or Michael Finley.

"I'd be hard-pressed to see us trading Dirk," Cuban said. "Dirk is as close to an untouchable as we'd get."

Still, the Rockets were said to be the leading candidate to acquire McGrady. A trade to Houston would team McGrady with Yao Ming, giving the Rockets an inside-outside nucleus few Western Conference teams could match.

Because of league salary cap rules relating to Francis' salary, such a deal could not be finalized until mid-July.

But Francis said he wants to stay in Houston.

"I thought we were really building something, something very good in Houston," said Francis, who has averaged 19.3 points, 6.4 assists and 6.1 rebounds in five seasons with the Rockets.

"Obviously, that's not the direction they want to go. I still think we could be a very good team."

"I'm not crying. Like I told you before, I know this is a business. Things like that happen. I'm not mad. I'm not upset. This is what they're trying to do. But like I said, I still think we could be something."

Francis told Houston television station KRIV that he talked with O'Neal on Monday and wants him as a teammate if he goes to Orlando.

High-risk sneezing, seeing in season of bizarre injuries

By KEVIN BAXTER

The Miami Herald

Even by baseball's usual common standards, this has been a great year for injuries.

How can you not get excited about a season in which a future Hall of Famer lands on the disabled list with injuries suffered in a sneezing incident? Or in which three players are hurt in sleeping accidents?

And how about Atlanta outfielder J.D. Drew, who missed three games after straining his neck while swimming in a friend's pond? And those are just the stories we believe. San Diego Padres pitcher David Wells, whose colorful personal life is the stuff of legend, tried out a number of explanations for the severed tendon in his right wrist and the cut on his left palm before deciding on this one: He tripped over a bar stool while playfully chasing a buddy who had tapped him on the back, falling on a glass and bottle he was carrying.

Uh, sure, David. Anything you say.

But then again, maybe it is true. After all, it's not the only strange injury Padres trainers have treated this year. Ryan Klesko missed more than a week with a back strain sustained when he stood for the national anthem, and pitcher Akinori Otsuka was hurt when he was hit in the face by a bat thrown to him by a fan receiving an autograph. Otsuka said he missed the bat when he became distracted by a piece of paper thrown at him by another autograph seeker, prompting this page advice from manager Bruce

Bochy: "Aki, next time, catch the bat and let the paper hit you."

(Vince Naimoli, managing general partner of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, also was struck by a flying bat this season, though neither he nor his guest, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army's chief of staff, were hurt. And they say Iraq is dangerous.)

Then there's the Baltimore Orioles' Larry Bigbie, who missed a start this year after stubbing his toe in his hotel room — although as stupid toe injuries go, that was mild. When Mark Grace played for the Arizona Diamondbacks, he broke his toe while crossing the clubhouse to congratulate teammate Damian Miller on making it to the All-Star team. And St. Louis Cardinals minor-leaguer Mike Cradale broke his toe answering the phone last spring.

The spate of injuries is no laughing matter for the players involved, of course, nor for Bill Peelman, Major League Baseball's medical adviser, who was recently quoted in a New York newspaper about the increased number of players on the disabled list. Through the first third of the season, debilitating injuries are up nearly 25 percent from last year, and some inside baseball are wondering if the sport's new drug-testing policy is to blame.

Players who freely used performance-enhancing drugs in the past have quit cold turkey, one theory goes, leaving them brittle and susceptible to injury. Medical experts, however, have been quick to dismiss that suggestion. "It would be hard off the top to come up with a cause-and-effect explanation for that related to steroids," NYU medical professor Gary Wadler, a board member of the World Anti-Doping Agency, told T.J. Quinn of The New York Daily News. "I'm not sure that has legs."

Which means there really is no explanation for why the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa, who is strong enough to hit 549 career home runs, could miss a month after hurting his back sneezing. But at least he was awake when he got hurt. In spring training, Oakland pitcher Rich Harden strained his shoulder turning off his alarm clock, and the Marlins' Bryce Florie crashed into sliding doors while sneezing.

Washed later Tampa Bay's Reggie Redmond was unable to play in the field because of a regular-season game after he fell asleep propped up in front of the television.

All are deserving of the Chris Brown Sleeping Disorder Prize, named for the former Los Angeles Giant who begged out of a game claiming he "slept on his eye wrong."

Even Sosa would have to admit all this is pretty funny ... if it didn't hurt so much.

Griffey, Bonds top NL All-Star voting

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A day after hitting his 500th home run, Reds outfielder Ken Griffey Jr. solidified his spot Monday as the NL's starter in the All-Star Game.

Griffey, Barry Bonds and Sammy Sosa are the top three among outfielders. If they're elected, they will mark the first time in All-Star history that three members of the 500-home club would start in the same outfield.

The All-Star teams will be announced July 4. The game will be played July 13 at Minute Maid Park in Houston.

Bonds (1,502,397) leads all NL players in the voting. The San Francisco slugger is in line to be a starter for the 11th time.

Griffey (1,325,661) became the 20th player to reach 500 career home runs. Sosa (1,124,623) came off the disabled list last week for the Chicago Cubs.

Also leading in NL voting are catcher Mike Piazza (1,188,858) of the New York Mets, first base-

man Albert Pujols (1,149,068) and third baseman Scott Lorton (1,130,385) of St. Louis, and second baseman Jeff Kent (1,040,101) and shortstop Adam Everett (725,629) of the Astros.

See complete voting list on Scoreboard, Page 28

Padilla out indefinitely
PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia Phillies right-hander Vicente Padilla will be sidelined indefinitely with acute tendinitis and elbow inflammation in his pitching arm.

Team officials said Monday that Padilla will have an MRI on Tuesday and a bone scan Wednesday.

The former All-Star has been on the disabled list since May 29.

Orioles acquire RHP Grimsley
BALTIMORE — The Orioles got the right-handed reliever they

needed, acquiring Jason Grimsley in a trade with the Kansas City Royals on Monday.

Baltimore gave up right-handed prospect Denny Bautista for Grimsley, who immediately agreed to a contract extension through 2005.

Grimsley, 36, is 3-3 with a 3.38 ERA in 32 appearances for the Royals this season.

Padres' Hernandez on DL
SAN DIEGO — San Diego Padres catcher Ramon Hernandez got a lucky break when Toronto's Howie Clark slammed into his left knee in a collision at the plate.

Hernandez, placed on the 15-day disabled list Monday, has a second-degree strain of his medial collateral ligament. The rest of the knee looks fine, trainer Tony Hutchinson said.

"I think we're pretty fortunate that this is all there was to the injury," Hutchinson said.

Hernandez, acquired with outfielder Terrence Long for center fielder Mark Kotsay in the offseason, anticipates a quick recovery.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	39	54	.418	
Boston	37	56	.398	2 1/2
Seattle	36	59	.383	4 1/2
Toronto	37	61	.378	5 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	40	50	.444	
Chicago	35	55	.389	5 1/2
St. Louis	37	53	.411	4 1/2
Detroit	31	69	.312	11 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	39	56	.410	
Oakland	38	59	.391	1 1/2
Seattle	38	59	.391	1 1/2

Monday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland 5, Oakland 3	20	18	.520	
Anaheim 10, Oakland 3	20	18	.520	

Tuesday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota at Boston	20	18	.520	
New York at Toronto	20	18	.520	
St. Louis at Cleveland	20	18	.520	
Cleveland at Chicago White Sox	20	18	.520	
Seattle at Kansas City	20	18	.520	
Oakland at Anaheim	20	18	.520	

Wednesday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota (Vla 7-4) at Boston (Lowe 6-5)	20	18	.520	
N.Y. Yankees (Lind 9-4) at Toronto (Berdard 1-2)	20	18	.520	
Cleveland (Clem 6-1) at Texas (Bierbrodt 0-6)	20	18	.520	
Seattle (Kane 6-1) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 1-3)	20	18	.520	
Detroit (Kottus 4-4) at Kansas City (May 4-8)	20	18	.520	
Oakland (Redman 5-3) at Anaheim (Escobar 4-3)	20	18	.520	

Thursday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
New York at Toronto	20	18	.520	
Minnesota at Boston	20	18	.520	
Cleveland at Chicago White Sox	20	18	.520	
Seattle at Kansas City	20	18	.520	
Oakland at Anaheim	20	18	.520	
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore	20	18	.520	

Monday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	

Tuesday	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore 5, Yankees 3	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

Wednesday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

Thursday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

Friday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

Saturday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

Sunday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

Monday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

Tuesday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

Wednesday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

Thursday	W	L	Pct	GB
Indians 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
Cleveland 5, White Sox 1	20	18	.520	
St. Louis 5, Cardinals 3	20	18	.520	
San Diego 5, Padres 3	20	18	.520	
Los Angeles 5, Angels 3	20	18	.520	
San Francisco 5, Giants 3	20	18	.520	
Arizona 5, Diamondbacks 3	20	18	.520	
Colorado 5, Rockies 3	20	18	.520	
Florida 5, Marlins 3	20	18	.520	
Atlanta 5, Braves 3	20	18	.520	
Philadelphia 5, Phillies 3	20	18	.520	
Pittsburgh 5, Pirates 3	20	18	.520	
Cincinnati 5, Reds 3	20	18	.520	

	East Division			
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	36	31	.537	—
Florida	37	32	.536	—
New York	34	34	.500	2
Atlanta	32	36	.471	4
Montreal	22	45	.328	14

Ransom's delivery pays off for Giants

Newcomer to rivalry with Dodgers singles home winning run in ninth

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — One-run games are becoming the norm when the Giants meet the Dodgers.

Cody Ransom, a newcomer to the rivalry — he was called up earlier this month after dominating Triple-A pitchers with timely hits — came through with the biggest hit of his career Monday night. He singled up the middle with two outs in the ninth, lifting San Francisco to a 3-2 win over Los Angeles.

"It was a lot of fun," Ransom said. "It's great to get a hit and help the team out. I was just going up to the plate trying to get a pitch to hit."

After Dustan Mohr's two-out single, pinch-hitter Danton Minor fell behind 0-2 to Guillermo Mota (3-2) before walking. Ray Durham also walked and Ransom got his fifth RBI of the season.

Ransom, on the Opening Day roster before going to Fresno on April 23, batted 309 (42-for-136) with 10 home runs and 21 RBIs in 36 games at Triple-A.

"My confidence is definitely a little bit higher. I'm just getting a chance to play," the 28-year-old Ransom said.

The Giants, who have won 12 of their past 13 at home, gained ground in the NL West race. San Francisco moved within a half-game of first-place Los Angeles by winning the opener of this four-game series that both clubs consider extremely important.

Matt Herges (4-2) pitched 11½ innings for the win, but blew his fifth save in the top of the ninth when Jayson Werth singled to left to score pinch-runner Dave Roberts to tie it. That spoiled what would've been the first time Giants starter Kirk Rueter won back-to-back starts this season.

"It's June, but it is good," Giants manager Felipe Alou said. "A half-game is better than 2½ of the year."

The Dodgers won five of six meetings against the Giants in April, including a three-game sweep in San Francisco — all one-run games.

"This is the way I expect these games to



be all the time," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "We're always playing them in close games, so there's no reason to expect anything

different....

"It's not like Mota to have control problems. If we'd gotten out of that inning, we'd have been in good shape, because Herges was out of the game, but it didn't happen."

Rueter allowed one run on seven hits in 6½ innings, struck out one and walked three.

Odalis Perez avoided losing for the first time since May 21 at Atlanta. The lefty, who had won his last two decisions, gave up two runs on seven hits in 7½ innings. He struck out three and walked two.

Perez scored on Milton Bradley's RBI single in the fifth to give Los Angeles a 1-0 lead, but the Giants answered in the bottom half.

Barry Bonds hit a leadoff double and tied the game on Edgar Alfonzo's single.

Padres 3, Diamondbacks 1: Trevor Hoffman earned his 36th save to take sole possession of fourth place on the career list for the Padres, who won for just the fourth time in 13 games.

Hoffman, who was tied with Jeff Rardon, threw a perfect bottom of the ninth for his 16th save in 18 chances. Phil Nevin homered and Ismael Valdez (6-3) allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings.

Matt Bush, the Padres' top pick in the draft two weeks ago, was suspended indefinitely by the team a day after he was arrested at a bar in Peoria, Ariz., for investigation of trespass, disorderly conduct and assault.

Astros 7, Pirates 5: At Houston, Lance Berkman hit a tying three-run double and Jeff Kent drove in the go-ahead run in a five-run fifth inning for the Astros, who came back from a 4-0 deficit to win their second in a row.

Kent had to leave after the seventh inning after jamming his right pinkie while sliding into third base in the fifth.



Dustan Mohr, right, celebrates as he scores the Giants' winning run on Cody Ransom's single in the ninth inning while Dodgers catcher Paul Lo Duca can only watch.

A's still on short end against Angels

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics weren't able to compete with the Anaheim Angels in the free agent market last winter. They haven't done much better against them on the field, either.

The Angels have won five of seven meetings against their AL West rivals, including a 10-3 romp Monday night that kicked off a four-game series.

Vladimir Guerrero, who signed a five-year, \$70 million contract in January, went 4-for-5 with a homer and four RBIs to raise his total to 62 and tie Boston's David Ortiz for the league lead.

"You always want to play well against teams in your own division," pitcher John Lackey said following his second victory in his past eight starts. "The way we've been playing lately, it's just nice to get a win against anybody."

The Angels — beginning a 10-game stretch in which they will play Oakland seven times — had won just four of their previ-



ous 15 games after holding a three-game lead over Oakland on June 3. The A's sixth loss in their past seven games overall dropped them into a first-place tie in the AL West with the idle Texas Rangers, a full game ahead of Anaheim.

"We're still in a real good position and we haven't played our best baseball yet," Oakland left fielder Eric Byrnes said. "It seems like it's either the pitching that's picking us up one night and the offense another night."

"We've had kind of flashes of brilliance, but once we get things going and put everything together, I think we have as good a chance as anybody to win the division."

Guerrero's bat helped awaken a sluggish offense that was 1-for-11 with runners in scoring position in Sunday's 3-1 loss at Houston.

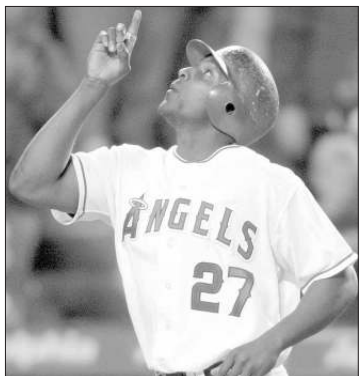
He drove in David Eckstein with a hard ground single off the glove of second baseman Marco Scutaro in the fifth and scored on Garret Anderson's double for a 4-2 lead.

Guerrero hit a 1-0 pitch from Justin Duchesne to center field in the seventh for his 17th homer. In the eighth, he greeted submarine-throwing Chad Bradford with a bases-loaded two-run double inside the left-field line.

"He's a superstar, and you've got to expect those things out of people like that," Lackey said. "He's such a great teammate because he doesn't act like a superstar. He works as hard as anybody."

Indians 5, White Sox 1: C.C. Sabathia allowed one run in eight impressive innings, and Ronnie Belliard and Casey Blake homered in the first inning for visiting Cleveland.

Victor Martinez had a career-high four hits for the Indians, who moved within two games of the White Sox for second place in the AL Central.



Anaheim Angels' Vladimir Guerrero celebrates his solo homer against the Oakland Athletics during the seventh inning at Angel Stadium.

S. Williams opens with straight-sets win

BY STEPHEN WILSON

The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Serena Williams opened her bid for a third straight Wimbledon title Tuesday with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over a Chinese player making her first appearance at the All England Club.

The top-seeded Williams wasn't her dominating self in a tougher-than-expected outing against 52nd-ranked Zheng Jie, who showed no signs of being overawed against the two-time defending champion on Centre Court.

Elsewhere, Marat Safin and Elena Dementieva were upset in the first round and Tim Henman survived a big scare against a grass-court novice.

"The most special thing is coming back as champ," Williams said. "Win, lose or draw it's a great feeling to be defending champion at Wimbledon. I don't get that feeling at any other Grand Slam."

The score was deceptive. The 20-year-old Zheng, with an especially strong backhand, stayed close in most games and pushed Williams for much of the 66-minute match.

But Zheng couldn't break Williams' serve, going 0-10 on break points. Williams also took advantage of Zheng's weak serve, teeing off on her second deliveries.

Williams courtseyed and blew kisses to the crowd around her. But it wasn't a vintage display from Williams, who committed 24 unforced errors to go with six aces and 29 winners. She was less convincing than her sister, two-time champion Venus, who swept 106th-ranked Marie-Gayane Michielan of Switzerland 6-3, 6-0 on Monday.

Serena hasn't won a Grand Slam title since beating Venus in last year's Wimbledon final, and had an eight-month layoff after knee surgery last August. She is bidding to become the first player to win Wimbledon three straight times since Steffi Graf in 1991-93.

In an early upset, sixth-seeded Dementieva of Russia — a finalist at the French Open — was bounced 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 by Sandra Kleinova of the Czech Republic. Dementieva, who had 67 double faults during the French Open, served her 11th double

fault on match point.

Another Russian, No. 8 Svetlana Kuznetsov, was eliminated by France's Virginie Razzano, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-4. No. 17 Chanda Rubin was ousted by Marion Bartoli, 7-6 (3), 6-3.

There was also an early surprise on the men's side, with 19th-seeded Safin beaten by fellow Russian Dmitry Tursunov, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (1). Safin was a quarterfinalist here in 2001, but Wimbledon remains his least successful Grand Slam event.

"I don't like to play on this surface," said Safin, the 2000 U.S. Open champion. "It's like a nightmare for me. After a while I just get bored. I lost motivation and I give up."

Watching Safin's match was former Russian president Boris Yeltsin, an avid tennis fan and player. Yeltsin was invited to sit in the Royal Box on Centre Court, but instead wandered out to Court 2 to watch the all-Russian contest.

The annual British rite of "Henmanian" got off to a rocky start as Henman — seeking again to become the first homegrown player to win the men's title since Fred Perry in 1936 — struggled to overcome 89th-ranked Spaniard Ruben Ramirez-Hidalgo.

Henman, who has lost in the semifinals four times in six years, dropped the first set and faced two set points in the second before rallying to win 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-2. He served his 13th ace on match point. It ended a shaky performance by Henman, who had 10 double faults.

Ramirez-Hidalgo, a 26-year-old who has never won a Grand Slam match, stepped on a grass court for the first time Sunday. Yet he stunned Henman and his devoted following on Court 1 by taking the first set and going up a break in the second.

The Spaniard had two set points at 6-4 in the second-set tiebreak but couldn't convert. He hit a backhand long on the first and Henman served a winner on the next. Henman won the next point with a drop volley and Ramirez-Hidalgo sailed a backhand long to drop the set.

After winning the third set, Henman was admonished early in the fourth by chair umpire Andrew Egtli for using a profanity. Henman responded by slapping his wrist. From 1-2, he won five straight games to close the match.



Defending champion Serena Williams returns to Jie Zheng during their first round match on Centre Court at Wimbledon, Tuesday. Williams won the match 6-3, 6-1.

In a late Centre Court match, second-seeded Andy Roddick was matched against Wang Yeu-Tzuou of Taiwan, but play was called off for the day due to rain.

First-round winners included No. 9 Carlos Moya, No. 14 Marandy Fish and No. 18 Fe-

liciano Lopez. Wayne Ferreira, a 32-year-old South African, beat No. 28 Ivan Ljubicic in four sets to mark his record 55th Grand Slam tournament appearance. The previous record of 54 was held by Stefan Edberg.

Police say Padres' No. 1 draft pick bit a bouncer

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Suspended top draft pick Matt Bush allegedly bit one of the bouncers who tried to escort the San Diego Padres' prospect out of a bar, police said Tuesday.

Following his arrest early Sunday in Peoria, Ariz., Bush was suspended indefinitely by the team. The Padres gave the 18-year-old shortstop a \$3.15 million signing bonus after picking him No. 1 overall out of a San Diego high school on June 7.

Bush was arrested for investigation of felony assault, and faces misdemeanor charges of trespass and disorderly conduct. Bush was also cited for underage drinking, said Jay Davies, a spokesman for the Peoria Police Department.

Arrested at about 12:30 a.m., Bush was released later Sunday.

Employees at McDuffy's, which is across the street from the Padres' Peoria Sports Com-

Sports briefs

plex believe Bush and his 23-year-old brother slipped into the bar through a rear entrance, Davies said Tuesday.

"Somebody found out he was under age and reported him and that's what things turned sour for him," he said.

When security approached to lead them out, police said Bush resisted and the pair started a fight with at least two of the bouncers.

"It's alleged Matthew bit one of the security members on the left arm," Davies said.

When police arrived, the 5-foot-10, 170-pound Bush struggled with one of the officers but eventually calmed down, Davies said.

His brother tried to flee but McDuffy's security stopped him, Davies said.

Bush had been assigned to the Padres' rookie-league affiliate in Peoria. He won't be able to play during the suspension, and was told to come to San Diego on Tuesday for a physical, general manager Kevin Towers said.

"The one thing that we try to do here, and it's very important not only at the amateur level but at the major league level, is the type of individual we bring into this organization is very important," Towers said Monday night after Bush was suspended.

Super Bowl streaker fined

HOUSTON — A streaker who delayed the second-half kickoff at the Super Bowl was fined \$1,000 Tuesday but avoided any jail time.

Mark Roberts, 39, of Liverpool, England, was fined by the same six-woman jury that found him guilty Monday of misdemeanor trespassing. That carries a maxi-

mum sentence of six months in jail and up to a \$2,000 fine.

Jurors deliberated for about an hour before deciding on the sentence, courts coordinator Rachel Fernel said.

"The whole reason I did it was to entertain the people," Roberts said Monday. "If making people laugh is a criminal offense, I should be sentenced to prison for life."

Roberts jumped a knee-high barrier and paraded on the Reliant Stadium field after halftime of the New England Patriots' win over the Carolina Panthers.

Roberts ran on dressed as a referee, stripped down to a football-shaped G-string and shoes, then started dancing a jig at the 30-yard line for about a minute.

New England linebacker Matt Chatham leveled Roberts as he ran from security personnel. Roberts, who had the name of a gambling Web site scribbled across

his chest, was hogtied and carried off the field by police.

Roberts' Web site claims he has pulled 380 similar streaking stunts but has never before been found guilty on criminal charges.

Costa Rica fires former U.S. soccer coach Sampson

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Former U.S. national soccer coach Steve Sampson was fired as Costa Rica's coach after his team struggled past a traditionally weak Cuban team in World Cup qualifying.

The Costa Rican federation announced the ouster Monday. Costa Rica tied Cuba 2-2 on the road and 1-1 at home, advancing on a technicality to the next round of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Costa Rica was eliminated in the first round of the 2002 World Cup, but its youth team qualified for the 2004 Olympics over the United States.



War Is Tough on Families

Military life has enough challenges without worrying about how your loved ones will contact you... especially during times of conflict. I know, because I grew up in a military family and served as a Navy Admiral.

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For more information, or to learn how you can help, please contact your local Red Cross or visit www.redcross.org. Thank you.



Marsha Evans
President and CEO, American Red Cross
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

SPORTS



Cal State Fullerton staff remains in complete control as Titans knock off Miami, Page 26

Magic, Rockets talk blockbuster

Scoring champ McGrady would head to Houston for fellow All-Star Francis

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

A new dynamic duo in the West, Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming, is a distinct possibility.

Executives from several NBA teams said Orlando and Houston were close to a deal sending McGrady, 25, the two-time NBA scoring champion, to the Rockets for a package including All-Star point guard Steve Francis, forward Kelvin Cato and guard Cuttino Mobley.

Francis' agent, Jeff Fried, told

the Houston Chronicle in its online edition early Tuesday that Rockets General Manager Carroll Dawson told him the trade was near but not yet complete.

"I spoke to Carroll, and it was not a done deal," Fried told the newspaper. "It's close. It's subject to a few contingencies."

"Tracy has indicated he would like to play elsewhere, and we're trying to see what we can do," Magic executive Pat Williams said. "The issue is where he would sign [a contract extension]. Teams want to know what Tra-

cy's plans are."

The deal also could be contingent on whether the Charlotte Bobcats select any of Orlando's unprotected players in Tuesday night's expansion draft.

The Magic also are receiving offers for the No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft Thursday night.

Charlotte and the Los Angeles Clippers already have shuffled the top part of the order, swapping picks Monday night.

The Bobcats get the overall No. 2 selection for the fourth and 33rd picks. Charlotte also agreed to se-



A blockbuster trade involving Magic guard Tracy McGrady, shown driving against Lamar Odom, and Rockets point guard Steve Francis dominated the NBA rumor mill on Monday, while the Los Angeles Lakers waited to learn whether Shaquille O'Neal's trade demand is serious.

lect Los Angeles center Predrag Drobnjak in the expansion draft.

What promises to be a busy week began with loads of trade talk, though the Los Angeles Lak-

ers apparently won't be putting any Shaquille O'Neal discussions on the fast track.

SEE TRADE ON PAGE 27

Defending champ not dominant



Defending champion Serena Williams reaches for a shot from China's Jie Zheng during their first-round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon on Tuesday. Williams won the match 6-3, 6-1, but it was tighter than the score suggests. See story on Page 30.



Giants' Ransom gets first taste of rivalry with Dodgers with decisive ninth-inning hit

Page 29



Outspending A's in offseason paying off for Angels on field

Page 29

Byrant accuser's history still issue in pre-trial hearings

Page 27